

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CONGRATULATING DEPUTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

#### HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the San Diego County Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA). I am proud to recognize the contributions they have made to the community, the Sheriff's Department, and San Diego County.

As many of us know, it is difficult to succeed at anything without support. DSA has been providing that necessary and crucial support to San Diego County law enforcement for 50 years. The Deputy Sheriff's Association has a noble mission to promote professionalism in law enforcement. In addition, the DSA holds honesty, integrity, dedication, accountability, respect, compassion, courage, and trust as core values.

Specifically, I want to recognize the 2004 Board Members: President, Jim Duffy; Vice President, Ernie Carillo, Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Birdsong; and Directors James Armand, Gary Chambers, John Mercer, Ron Morse, Dave Myers, and Donna Perone.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the San Diego Deputy Sheriff's Association as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. I thank the DSA for their continued service and wish them another 50 productive years.

### RECOGNIZING JAMES SPRINGFIELD

#### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise before you to recognize a tremendous public servant from my district. Mr. James Springfield, President and Chief Executive Officer for Valley Baptist Health System in Harlingen, Texas, was recently named "Young Healthcare Executor of the Year" by the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), a national organization based in Chicago.

Mr. Springfield will receive the 2004 Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award on March 1 at the Parker B. Francis Distinguished Lecture Hall during ACHE's 47th Congress on Healthcare Management in Chicago.

The Hudgens Award is presented annually to an exceptional healthcare executive who is less than 40 years old and who is the chief executive officer or chief operating officer of a health services organization.

A native of Georgia, Mr. Springfield attended Baylor University in Waco where he received a Bachelor of Business Administration

degree. He earned a Master's in Healthcare Administration degree from the University of Houston—Clear Lake. His awards include the "Emerging Leader" and the "Regents Award" from the American College of Healthcare Executives as well as serving as a Diplomate for the College.

He received the "Distinguished Alumnus" award from the University of Houston—Clear Lake. The Rotary International Foundation also awarded Mr. Springfield the Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this unique patriot. James Springfield has dedicated his life to the field of healthcare and he represents a level of professionalism and achievement.

### HONORING HELEN G. JACOB NATIONAL "FOUR CHAPLAINS" AWARD RECIPIENT

#### HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to officially recognize and pay tribute to Violet Brosart.

Violet Brosart is a resident of Lackawanna, New York and is currently serving as the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York. The American Legion Auxiliary is the largest women's patriotic service organization in the world. Its primary goals are to serve veterans and their families, to promote patriotism and Americanism, and to serve our children and communities. President Brosart is a 36-year member of Hamburg Unit #527 in Erie County. She has served as its president and remains an active member. She has also been active in her community, becoming involved in Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls, Youth Baseball, the Empire State Ballet Company, and the Hamburg Little Theater. She also worked for 10 years as a child day care provider. Mrs. Brosart is the mother of 4 and grandmother of 10. She also has one great grandchild.

Each year the Department president chooses a project of particular interest to her and raises money for that cause. This year President Brosart has chosen the Alzheimer's Association as her special project. More than 14 million Americans will be diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease within the next 50 years unless a cure or prevention is found. Alzheimer's disease affects not just the patient, but the family as well. Often children and grandchildren find themselves becoming the caregivers to those who once gave care to them. Money raised for this special project will be distributed to all seven areas of the Alzheimer's Coalition in New York State, based on need. The money will be used to support programs in the following areas: early diagnosis, effective treatment, essential support networks, and caregiver training. In addition to

these areas of concern, the Alzheimer's Coalition is working in conjunction with the VA facilities to aid veterans that have Alzheimer's. By embracing this project, President Brosart and the American Legion Auxiliary can "Help for Today" and "Hope for Tomorrow." To date, over \$15,500 has been raised, with a goal of \$40,000 by August 1, 2004.

Traveling throughout the 62 counties in New York State, President Brosart emphasizes the American Legion Auxiliary's strong commitment to our country and to our veterans. Her patriotic spirit is evident in all of her speeches and presentations. The members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, are very proud of President Brosart and her deep commitment to the veterans of our Nation.

### HONORING LONGS PEAK COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

#### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boy Scouts of America and specifically the Longs Peak Council Boy Scouts of America for their outstanding service and commitment of duty to our local communities and to the nation.

The Longs Peak Council covers a large area spanning from northeastern Colorado and up into the Wyoming and Nebraska area.

As of December 31, 2002, the Boy Scouts of America had nearly 3,325,504 active Boy Scouts nationwide. On the local level this equaled out to 30,230 hours of community service in hundreds of different community service events.

Nearly 1,420,000 hours from 5,917 volunteer leaders have been spent teaching by example the values of citizenship and the rewards of participating in their local communities.

The fulfillment of being active in the community has not only been a valuable lesson for the Boy Scouts, but the citizens of Colorado have been sincerely grateful for all of this hard work.

In the Greeley flood of 1996 Scouts and leaders filled thousands of sandbags and helped protect the property and lives of the residents of Greeley. One year later hundreds of Larimer County Scouts and leaders assisted elderly residents in recovering their belongings from the destroyed homes in the devastating Spring Creek flood of Fort Collins. Each year in the Scouting for Food program the local Boy Scouts gather 50 to 80 tons of much needed canned food for local food banks.

The Boy Scouts of America is truly the largest and most successful youth protection program among the youth-serving agencies nationwide. From CPR training, first aid and life guard training to computer science and rock

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

climbing courses, the opportunities for enrichment abound for the boys and young adults of Colorado's 4th Congressional District, and indeed, nationwide.

I am so very proud of all the Longs Peak Council Boy Scouts of America has done for our communities. I ask my fellow congressmen to join me in publicly honoring the Boy Scouts of America and their tireless dedication to serving others. May God bless the Boy Scouts of America for decades to come.

---

HONORING HELEN G. JACOB NATIONAL "FOUR CHAPLAIN" AWARD RECIPIENT

---

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to officially recognize and pay tribute to my dear friend and close advisor, Helen G. Jacob.

A buck sergeant during World War II in both the U.S. and European theater, Helen has been a shining example of advocacy and commitment to America's veterans, both in western New York and throughout the Nation. When I was elected to Congress and received my assignment on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I turned to local veterans leaders and organizations for advice and counsel. One of my first calls was to Helen Jacob. She has served as an integral part of my Veterans' Advisory Committee since its inception and is a wealth of knowledge on a host of veterans issues.

Her many awards, honors and citations are too numerous to mention, but if you will permit me, I would like to highlight just a few. In 1996, the Buffalo VA medical center opened its Women's Ambulatory Care unit, a new unit in the hospital to address the growing needs of our female veterans. Helen was instrumental in this project. When we dedicated that wing, we recognized those tremendous efforts and named it accordingly. I would invite every Member to visit the Helen G. Jacob Women's Wellness Center in Buffalo, New York. She has won the Legionnaire of New York State Award, the Found Woman Award, the Golden Rule Award, the Prime Time Award and the Susan B. Anthony Award. Simply put, Helen Jacob could not be more deserving of the high distinction of this national award.

Helen's community service is not limited to veterans. She serves on countless boards and organizations that help people in my district every day. Her lifetime efforts to strengthen her country and community have set an example we all should follow.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to count Helen Jacob among my friends, and am pleased and honored to bring to the attention of this honorable body her outstanding service and this well-deserved award.

HONORING LOVELAND'S VALENTINE REMAILING PROGRAM

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Loveland, Colorado Valentine Card Remailing Program for their outstanding and creative service to Loveland and to the rest of the Nation.

The Loveland Valentine Card Remailing Program began in 1946. Postmaster Elmer Ivers, Chamber of Commerce president Ted W. Thompson and his wife Mabel were the original founders of this unique tradition. What began as a stamp club project has since grown into the largest remailing program in the United States of America.

In 1947, 40 cards were sent through the Loveland, Colorado Post Office and postmarked with a unique Valentine inked stamp. Now every year nearly 300,000 valentines are sent through the Loveland, Colorado Post Office. Behind the scenes there are about 50 senior citizen volunteers that hand stamp a message of love on the envelopes that are received.

This year's message of love, called a "cachet," was submitted by Diana Reed and reads "Sweet Promises on Arrows Ride from Loveland's Heart to the Whole World Wide." Stephanie Moss submitted the Cachet design. The Cachet design is Dan Cupid holding a heart shaped world in one hand, with doves and mountains framing the verse.

Loveland's official Valentine Card design was submitted by Brenda Crow and pictures two white doves sitting in a bed of lavender flowers below three red hearts framed in flowers. On the inside of the card a Valentine verse reads "Loveland, Colorado, the Sweetheart City has a Valentine Poem for the Witty. Candy is Sweet, Lemons are Sour, I'll be loving you through the Midnight Hour." And was submitted by third grader Shelsey Sybrandts who is the youngest author of the Valentine Verse in the 57-year history of the Loveland, Colorado Valentine Remailing Program.

The modest city of Loveland has created quite a name for itself and is globally known as the "Sweetheart City." Valentines are sent through Loveland from all fifty States as well as 120 countries. The Loveland, Colorado Valentine Remailing Program has been featured globally on PBS, the London Broadcasting Company, radio casts in Australia, and is mentioned in many more newspapers and magazines.

A special Valentine representative is also chosen by a committee to win a \$1,000 scholarship and to represent Loveland in various meetings with the Governor of Colorado and will often make speeches in front of the State House of Representatives and the State Senate. In the past, Miss Loveland Valentine has been the only person to be allowed to make a presentation in front of Colorado's State Legislature.

I am so very proud of the humble town of Loveland, where my office headquarters are, and the Loveland Valentines Remailing Program. I ask my colleagues to join me in a unanimous tribute to all of the senior citizen volunteers, the authors of this year's Valentine card: Shelsey Sybrandts, Brenda Crow, Steph-

anie Moss, and Diana Reed, and to congratulate Sara Craig for being this year's Miss Loveland Valentine. May this noble tradition lift up our hearts and spread love and compassion around the world for years to come.

---

HONORING THE "GO RED FOR WOMEN" CAMPAIGN

---

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the "Go Red for Women" national campaign sponsored by the American Heart Association. This initiative is brought forth to raise awareness in women about heart disease.

Friday, February 6th is National "Wear Red Day," a day when people nationwide are encouraged to take women's health to heart by wearing red to show their support and raise awareness with the public that heart disease is the #1 killer of women in the United States. By showing off a favorite red dress, shirt, or tie, Americans will unite in the national movement to give women a personal and urgent wake-up call about their risk of heart disease.

In Fresno County, more than 763 women die each year of cardiovascular disease. Fresno's luncheon event on Thursday will serve as a kick-off for the national event. Dr. Catherine Winchester is the only woman cardiologist in central California, and she will serve as the keynote speaker and several women heart survivors will also share their personal stories. The "Go Red for Women" luncheon is a wonderful way of reminding the public that February 6th is national "Wear Red Day."

The American Heart Association is committed to the support of ongoing medical research to advance knowledge in the areas of prevention and treatment of heart disease and stroke. It launched its new initiative, "Go Red for Women," to empower women to live longer and stronger lives and to help reduce their risk factors for heart disease. This has served as a call-to-action endeavor to educate women on how to recognize the symptoms of a heart attack and how to better their health.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Fresno County American Heart Association for hosting a "Go Red for Women" event that will help to educate and empower the women in its community. I urge my colleagues to join me in praising the American Heart Association for its service to our Nation.

---

TRIBUTE TO LAURA PEARSON, RIVERSIDE CITY COUNCIL

---

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live

and work. Laura Pearson is one of these individuals.

Laura has represented Ward 7 of the City of Riverside for 14 years and has faithfully represented her constituents who live in both rural residential and contemporary neighborhoods. Her ability to see all sides of an issue have enabled her to be an effective councilmember.

Laura served as the Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee, Vice Chair for the Development Committee and as a member of the Utility Services/Land Use/Energy Development Committee. At the regional level, Laura served on the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board, City/County Animal Control Advisory Committee, Regional Water Quality Board and the Model Deaf Community Task Force.

In 1998, a former Riverside City employee broke into the Riverside City Council Chamber during a meeting and seriously injured several people including Laura. Despite this incident, Laura persevered and continued public service. Her courage and devotion demand our deepest respect and gratitude.

Laura is newly and happily married to Bill Densmore, a County Veterans' Service Officer and a City of Riverside Planning Commissioner. She is also a proud mother and grandmother.

Laura's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community initiatives and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

#### HONORING 2003 EAGLE SCOUTS FROM THE 5TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the privilege of honoring the 2003 Eagle Scout recipients from the Fifth Congressional District of Texas. As a Congressman and an Eagle Scout myself, I would like to recognize the tremendous achievement of these young men and commend them for their hard work and dedication.

Of the millions of young men who join the Boy Scouts, only four percent achieve the highest rank of Eagle Scout. This rigorous program demands excellence in many areas and tests the Scout's commitment and strength of character.

Eagles Scouts personify the qualities of trustworthiness, loyalty, helpfulness, friendliness, courtesy, kindness, obedience, cheerfulness, thrift, bravery, cleanliness and reverence. By earning the rank of Eagle Scout, these young men join a distinguished group of outstanding Americans including former U.S. Presidents, astronauts, and Pulitzer Prize winners.

America's youth are the leaders of tomorrow. I commend these Boy Scouts for providing excellent examples of leadership, citizenship, and service to their communities and their peers.

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to the following recipients of the Eagle Scout Award. Their valuable contributions to society will no doubt continue as they continue their journey through life.

Andrew Ryan Holman—Troop 103

Cory Lynn Smith—Troop 391

Christopher William Jennings Bryan—Troop 890

Spencer Douglas Adams—Troop 890

Jonathan Dylan Shields—Troop 138

William Lawrence Love—Troop 64

Joshua Douglas Hughes—Troop 125

Cameron Blevins O'Bannon—Troop 861

Zachary Stephen Taylor—Troop 856

Michael Edward Flusche, Jr.—Troop 865

Randall Charles Roysdon, Jr.—Troop 339

Jonathan Kerry Van Zant—Troop 535

Wesley James Mullins—Troop 435

Graham Andrew Orr—Troop 435

Jordan Whitney Ashford—Troop 852

Jonathan Daniel Martin—Troop 856

Marshall Glyn Holland, Jr.—Troop 792

Sunray Roper Spinks—Troop 107

Eric P. Mendershausen—Troop 636

Caleb Peter Holzapfel—Troop 437

Joel Andrew Fletcher—Troop 890

Christopher Robert Darling—Troop 138

Brandon Kent Parsons—Troop 856

Curtis J. Aanerud—Troop 792

Jared Asher Forbus—Troop 730

Daniel Joseph Hale—Troop 865

Reagan Lewis Loggins—Troop 744

Matthew Glenn Higgins—Troop 744

Christopher G. Plummer—Troop 744

Alexander P. Jarrard—Troop 890

Mitchell Jacob George—Troop 890

Andrew M. Diaz—Troop 709

Jared Nathaniel Wilson—Troop 852

Eric Randall Johnson—Troop 890

Phillip Rowe Vorkoper—Troop 709

Troy Aleo Thompson—Troop 333

Chad Jacob Kriskche—Troop 707

Brandon Casey Hall—Troop 707

Andrew Jedidiah Floyd—Troop 138

Eric Bruce Swanfeldt—Troop 647

Ryan Lemuel Johnson—Troop 890

Kyle Pierpont Johnson—Troop 890

Michael Collin Zreet—Troop 890

Travis Eugene Hughes—Troop 647

Jonathan Collins Lloyd—Troop 343

Darren Leland Butler—Troop 798

Robert Alexander Harrell—Troop 890

Thomas Nicodemus Wilder—Troop 719

Wilson Rowden Steely—Troop 473

Jason Howard Hensley—Troop 543

Michael Curtis O'Rear—Troop 856

Rory August Gerken—Troop 70

Jeffred David Nicholson—Troop 779

Michael Jones—Troop 33

Justin Minor Bosque—Troop 744

Ryan Keith Barley—Troop 707

Grant Richard Reddy—Troop 707

Scott Evans Holtzman, Jr.—Troop 890

Ryan James Koch—Troop 890

Lane Christopher Avery—Troop 852

Richard Baker Batten—Troop 707

#### HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER AARON WEAVER

#### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a recently fallen soldier, Chief War-

rant Officer Aaron Weaver. Aaron was a member of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division and was stationed in Iraq.

A little over two weeks ago, Aaron got on board a Black Hawk medevac helicopter to go to Baghdad for a routine medical check up. Aaron had recently undergone a serious bout with cancer and critical surgery. In fact, he could have remained in the states while the doctors continued to monitor his progress.

Instead, Aaron volunteered for Iraq and requested and received the medical waiver necessary to deploy. He wanted to join his younger brother, Ryan and his comrades. He heard the call of duty and he answered it.

His brother, Ryan, was also stationed in Iraq. Ryan and Aaron had plans to meet when Aaron was to arrive in Baghdad, but that moment never happened. The medevac that Aaron was traveling in was shot down by enemy fire and all nine soldiers, including Aaron, were killed.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and his one year old daughter, Savannah.

Aaron, already a decorated war hero who fought in the streets of Mogadishu in 1993 to rescue his friends after their Black Hawk had been shot down, set the highest example of someone who is willing to risk their own life to save others.

His dedication to his country and fellow soldiers represents his tremendous sense of loyalty and selflessness. Aaron Weaver is a true American hero. Aaron will never be forgotten by his family, friends or the country he fought for.

#### RECOGNIZING MAYOR JOHN L. WINTERSTELLA IN APPRECIATION OF A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF MONMOUTH AND MANASQUAN

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I have the opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual, John L. Winterstella, for a remarkable career of public service. Throughout his life, Mayor Winterstella has devoted himself to working for the people of his community, through serving not only as an elected official, but participating on a wide variety of boards and charities.

Mr. Winterstella began his career in the early 1970's working with the Environmental Commission and the Planning Board in the borough of Manasquan, the latter of which he continues to tirelessly serve. He was elected as a Manasquan councilman from 1977 through 1981, and was subsequently elected Mayor of the borough in 1984.

During his tenure as Mayor, John Winterstella has served on the Monmouth Community Development Block Grant Committee from 1984 until the present, served as the Commissioner on the Sewage Authority from 1990 to 1999, and also served on the Executive Board of the New Jersey League of Municipalities from 1990 to 1998. The Mayor served as President of that League from 1997-1998, and was enshrined in the League's Hall of Fame in the year 2000. In addition to keeping his busy schedule, Mayor

Winterstella has testified before the Senate and Congress on the topic of clean air and water reform, subjects close to his heart.

A career such as this merits strong praise, so Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my dearest gratitude to Mayor Winterstella for his indelible service to the people of Monmouth County and the borough of Manasquan. In addition, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a personal friend for a storied career that has positively shaped the lives of all people whom he has served.

HONORING SY AND ESTELLE  
OPPER

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a couple with a truly outstanding history of community service and philanthropy. From their modest upbringing to the present day, Sy and Estelle Oppers have always been generous with their time and resources and giving with their heart. Sy and Estelle have come to embody the best qualities of community service and citizenship. As their friends, family and many admirers gather for the Shalom School Lighting the Way Gala in honor of their wonderful contributions to the Jewish community, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most respected couples, Sy and Estelle Oppers.

Sy and Estelle Oppers are lifelong Sacramento residents who were raised with great family support and strong family values. Sy and Estelle were both encouraged by their loved ones to lend a helping hand to those who are in need. In the years after, Sy and Estelle have worked hard to transform this valuable lesson from childhood into a lifelong commitment to improve the lives of those who are less fortunate. Perhaps, more importantly, Sy and Estelle have passed the important values that they learned from their respective families to their four children and seven grandchildren. The people of the Capital Region should take great comfort in knowing that the Oppers' trademark spirit of philanthropy and sense of humanity will continue to bless us for generations to come.

In 1946, Sy Oppers opened five plumbing stores, Harold's Plumbing Supply. The last of this successful chain of plumbing stores would remain open until 2000. In spite of the considerable time commitment that is required to run a successful business, the Oppers never allowed their busy schedules to interfere with their resolute dedication to community service.

Throughout the years, Estelle Oppers has been active in a number of Jewish organizations including: Hadassah, TDX, Sisterhood, Jewish Family Service and the Grandparents Club at Shalom School. In addition, Estelle has also lent her name and efforts to help fundraise for Cancer research, the Breast Cancer fund of San Francisco and the River Oaks Center for Children, a multi-service behavioral healthcare agency for abused children and their families.

As for Sy Oppers, he has served as president of the board for many Jewish organizations such as the Jewish Federation and B'nei Israel Congregation. Much like Estelle, Sy has

also been active in a number of fundraising efforts. Sy played an instrumental role in the construction of the Washington Neighborhood Center of Sacramento, a place that provides after school programs such as free tutoring, computer workshops, dance classes and fine arts programs for at risk children and teens. Currently, Sy serves as on the board of The Trust Fund for Jewish Elderly and on the Jewish Family Service Board.

Together, Sy and Estelle Oppers have supported a number of important causes. Locally, Sy and Estelle have long been strong supporters of the regional theaters. Sy and Estelle were major donors and participants in the purchase of the property and building for the Jewish Foundation, where the area's only Jewish Day School, Shalom School, is located. On a national level, in addition to being long time members of AIPAC, the Oppers have been closely involved with the fundraising efforts for City of Hope National Medical Center, a place that provides essential help to millions of people facing life-threatening diseases. The goodwill of the Oppers extends well beyond the boundaries of the United States. Over the years, Sy and Estelle Oppers have participated in a number of missions to Israel.

Mr. Speaker, as Sy and Estelle Oppers' friends and family gather to celebrate and pay tribute to their wonderful legacy of community service I am honored to pay tribute to two of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. The Oppers' continuous philanthropy is a true testament to the spirit of giving and helping those who are in need. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Sy and Estelle Oppers continued happiness and success in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK BEATY,  
RIVERSIDE CITY COUNCIL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Chuck Beaty is one of these individuals.

Chuck Beaty's career has been dedicated to education and community service. In 1961, Chuck received his B.S. in Education from the University of Kansas. While he was working towards his Master's in History and Political Science, at the University of Missouri, he taught American History and Literature at a local junior high school. After receiving his M.A. in 1965, Chuck became a high school social studies department chairman and teacher for 3 years.

In 1984, Chuck became Riverside's Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and was responsible for several department managers. He was promoted to Deputy Superintendent 2 years later and was the District representative to Riverside's Task Force 2000. During this time he also served as the Acting Superintendent and was responsible for the

administration of a 31,000 person ADA school district.

After serving in the educational field for 32 years, Chuck was elected to represent Ward I of the City of Riverside. He retires after a decade of leadership and service to the community of Riverside. He is also a member of the American Historical Society, the Association of California School Administrators, the Riverside Association of School Managers, and the Social Studies Supervisors Association. One of his true passions in Riverside has been for the Evergreen Cemetery.

In 1998, a former Riverside City employee broke into the Riverside City Council Chamber during a meeting and seriously injured several people including Chuck. Despite this incident, Chuck persevered and continued public service. His courage and devotion demand our deepest respect and gratitude.

Chuck's tireless passion for education and community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. Chuck has been the heart and soul of many educational institutions and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

RECOGNIZING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NUCOR STEEL BAR MILL

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, as a former businessman, I can attest that one of the most important issues facing business today is how to remain profitable, productive, and efficient—while at the same time protecting the environment.

Many people would have us believe this is an "either-or" proposition. But I disagree. I believe strongly that many companies, large and small, are committed to preserving our natural resources. And recently, I had the opportunity to visit one, and see first-hand how it is successfully pursuing a strategy of operational and environmental excellence.

The Nucor Steel Bar Mill plant, located within my District in Jewett, Texas, is undertaking a modernization program that, when completed next year, will make it perhaps the most sophisticated facility in the industry. This three-phase, \$250 million initiative began in 1999, and includes new equipment, new technologies, and a new melt shop. It will improve the facility's operations at every level, and solidify Nucor's status as a world-class company. In the end, it will have a total annual economic impact on Texas of more than \$460 million.

But what is especially interesting about this modernization is that it will enable the plant to produce more steel and be more profitable, yet still provide even greater environmental protection. Specifically, Nucor-Jewett will increase its capacity from the current 750,000 tons of recycled steel per year to 1 million, and it will achieve that growth through the installation of pollution control equipment that actually supports rather than hinders the mill's prosperity.

This new equipment is more than simply state-of-the-art. It is state-of-the-future. The new melt shop will be tightly closed, and enable the plant to capture 100 percent of all air emissions. Advanced technologies will minimize the release of carbon monoxide and eliminate dust. All water-cooled furnace parts will have temperature sensors and flow meters to detect leaks.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, this is not an expansion for its own sake. It is an expansion for the sake of safety, the environment and the team of dedicated employees who work at Nucor-Jewett. I also want to point out that a centerpiece of this modernization is a new 90-ton electric arc furnace, or EAF. This too, stands as testimony of Nucor's commitment to performing in the most responsible possible manner.

The EAF process is one of the most efficient, effective technologies in manufacturing today. It is less expensive and capital intensive than traditional steel making, which has helped Nucor become one of the lowest-cost producers in the world. But just as important, it requires fewer raw materials and less energy.

The facts are staggering. For every ton of steel produced, the EAF process saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone. Annually, it saves enough energy to electrically power the city of Los Angeles for eight years. On top of that, it also reduces air and water emissions, and greenhouse gases that are associated with conventional steelmaking.

This kind of environmental responsibility is nothing new to Nucor. The company, which operates 30 facilities in 14 states—including four in Texas—is the largest producer of recycled steel in the world. It takes scrap metal that would otherwise be clogging landfills or tossed in fields or along roadsides and turns it into something of value that can be used in automobiles, farm machinery, metal buildings, furniture and recreational equipment.

But this modernization takes that commitment to a whole new level. As I said at the outset of my remarks, it demonstrates that economic growth and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, profit and prosperity can and should co-exist with efforts to preserve our natural resources.

In Texas, we have the good sense to understand this. Nucor's ability to undertake such a significant modernization program was in part due to voter approval of a constitutional amendment in 1993 that provides tax exemptions on property used for pollution control. The amendment enabled companies to invest in environmental technologies without fear of seeing their property taxes increase. So we were able to protect the environment, strengthen our business climate and hold the line on taxes.

The success of Nucor-Jewett shows quite clearly that the wisdom Texans exhibited in 1993 continues to pay off today. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Nucor Steel Bar Mill Group, its employees and management for helping to make Texas a land of greater environmental and economic opportunity.

## TAIWANESE REFERENDUM

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker Taiwan and the United States have a long and fruitful relationship. Taiwan's democracy is modeled after ours and its economic prosperity depends much on the mutual trade between Taiwan and the United States. Taiwan's leaders were mostly educated in the United States and Taiwan has nearly 30,000 students studying in America colleges and their tourists' number one overseas destination is the United States.

So despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations, Taiwan is a close ally of our government. It has supported our global war against terrorism and has pledged humanitarian assistance to postwar Iraq.

On the other hand, we have the Taiwan Relations Act, a law of the land which is designed to provide Taiwan with adequate weapons to protect itself against invasion from China. The U.S. policy on Taiwan-China relations is to maintain the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan's planned March 20 referendum, contrary to what Chinese leaders have said about it, is designed to maintain the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. It is not to provoke Chinese leaders. It merely asks Taiwan voters whether their government should buy more anti-missile weapons if China refuses to withdraw its 496 missiles targeted at Taiwan and whether their government should open up talks with China about other issues.

I feel the 23 million people of Taiwan have a right to hold such a referendum. We mustn't allow China to intimidate Taiwan with talks of overtaking Taiwan by force and other verbal threats.

## RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT E. WEST UPON RETIREMENT FROM YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP HOUSING AUTHORITY

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Robert E. West, who has recently retired from the position of Executive Director to the Neptune Township Authority.

Robert E. West was born in New York, and moved to Neptune, NJ at an early age. After graduating as valedictorian of his high school class, and finishing his education at Monmouth Junior College, he began work as an insurance agent in New York, eventually moving to the prestigious North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. In addition to selling insurance, Mr. West worked with Haso Maintenance Inc., working to dispatch taxis to the city's Bronx borough.

After 15 years working in the private sector, Mr. West's heart wished to stay in the place that he had resided since childhood, and began what would be a storied career in the

Neptune Township Housing Authority. From humble beginnings as a rent collector, Robert West rose through the ranks of the Authority to the prestigious position of Executive Director.

Mr. West's distinguished period of public service included affiliations to the Neptune Lions Club, Jersey Shore Medical Center and stints as the President of the Neptune Board of Education, who's most notable contribution was to save the school marching band through personal endeavors and vigorous fundraising efforts.

Under Mr. West's tenure as Executive Director, the Neptune Housing Authority has experienced growth unlike anything that has ever seen. Director West implemented programs to improve the quality of life for tenants, improve the quality of the residences in which they resided, and helped to make the administrative offices of the NTHA handicap accessible. For his work, the United States Housing and Urban Development Association awarded Mr. West several outstanding achievement awards.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my dearest gratitude to Mr. West for his indelible service to the community in which he lived. A career such as his truly merits praise, and I too ask, that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Robert E. West for a storied career that has touched the lives of all those whom he had served.

## HONORING MURIEL JOHNSON

### HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a woman with a long and impressive list of contributions to the County of Sacramento. To say that Muriel Johnson is an important and treasured member of our community would only begin to skim the surface of the extraordinary service that she has given our communities over her 41 years as a Sacramento resident. Muriel, who is currently in the last year of a successful 12-year stint as a Sacramento County Supervisor, has deservedly been acknowledged by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce as the recipient of the 2003 Sacramentan of the Year Award. As her friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate Muriel's illustrious career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of the Capital Region's most accomplished and widely respected leaders.

Muriel Johnson grew up in Nebraska and earned a bachelor of music degree from the University of Nebraska. Before beginning her formal career in public service, Muriel contributed to the betterment of her community by serving as a high school English and music teacher. In addition, Muriel also taught "Management by Objectives" during her teaching career.

Even before she was elected to the Sacramento Board of Supervisors, Muriel was an active and instrumental member of the local volunteer community. Muriel played a vital role in raising more than \$10 million dollars for a number of community service projects, the arts, and local charity. Muriel served as President of the Crocker Art Museum Board, the

Sacramento Junior League, the Sacramento/El Dorado Medical Association Alliance, the History Museum, and the Sacramento Symphony League. She also chaired the Advisory Board for California State Historic Park, and was a Mayor's appointee on the Downtown District Study. Muriel's close involvement with the diversity of community organizations is a testament to her unyielding commitment to bring about positive changes to her community and improve the quality of life of her fellow citizens.

In 1992, Muriel Johnson was first elected to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. Muriel represents approximately 250,000 people living in the County's Third District. The Third District includes the communities of Arden/Arcade, Carmichael, Campus Commons, East Sacramento, College Glen, College Greens, East foothills Farms and a portion of North Highlands. During her tenure, Muriel has served as the Chair of the Board of Supervisors in 1995 and 1999.

In addition to her duties as County Supervisor, Muriel has also served admirably as the Chair, President and Board Member of the following organizations since first being elected as supervisor: Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento Public Library Authority, California State Association of Counties, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Cable Commission, Sacramento Regional Sanitation District, Sacramento Regional Transit, Sacramento Air Quality Management District, and California's Elected Women's Association of Education and Research.

In recognition of her dedication to public service, Muriel is the rightful recipient of a number of community service awards including: the California Medical Association Alliance 1999 Member of the Year, the National Philanthropy Day Award for Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser, the first E.A. Combatalade Community Service Award, Soroptimist Woman of the Year, the 1993 Business Volunteers for the Arts Award for Individual Service, the Women's Transportation Seminar 2002 Woman of the Year Award, the 2003 Shots for Tots Immunization Registry, and the 2003 American Society for Public Administration's Excellence in Public Arts Award.

Throughout her term as County Supervisor, Muriel Johnson has remained a steadfast supporter of neighborhood preservation, more efficient transportation, better air quality, health and welfare issues, sound economic development, better schools for our children and flood control. There is no doubt that every one of Muriel's constituents has benefited in one way or another as a result of her hard work, dedication, and vision.

Mr. Speaker, as Muriel's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate her great career and acknowledgement as Sacramentan of the Year, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most respected leaders. Muriel's continuous leadership is a true testament to public service. Although her career in public service may soon be over, her involvement in community service is, fortunate for us, far from over. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Muriel Johnson continued success in all her future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOY DEFENBAUGH, RIVERSIDE CITY COUNCIL

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, CA are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Joy Defenbaugh is one of these individuals.

Joy has represented Ward 3 of the city of Riverside for 12 years and has continually worked for the interests of her constituency. Her area of representation includes the Magnolia Center and the Riverside Municipal Airport.

Joy served as chair of the Development Committee and served on the Finance and Government Affairs Committees. She is a member and past chair of the March Joint Powers Commission for the reuse of March Air Reserve Base. Her commitment to the improvement of the city of Riverside has been steadfast.

Early in her political career, Joy recognized the diversity and cultural differences within the community. At the direction of Colin Powell, Joy spearheaded the Common Ground Task Force which brought different groups of people in the community together regardless of ethnic background and cultural differences in order to relieve tension within the community.

In 1998, a former Riverside City employee broke into the Riverside City Council Chamber during a meeting and seriously injured several people. Despite this incident, Joy persevered and continued public service.

Joy's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, CA. She has had a commitment to the economic growth and has demonstrated leadership by recognizing an immediate need for community initiatives such as railroad crossings and the Vision for Today and Tomorrow. Her patriotic spirit for military and country is admirable. She has been the heart and soul of many community initiatives and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

#### CELEBRATING SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, in the month of January, across the country, the State of Texas and in the Fifth Congressional District, we celebrate School Board Recognition Month, to acknowledge the hard work of school board members and thank them for their valuable service in the education of our children.

During School Board Recognition Month we honor the administrators, staff, and volunteers who work to promote academic excellence and provide a safe learning environment for our students.

School board members are responsible for fulfilling one of the most important roles in our society—helping develop young men and women into the future leaders of our nation's economy, government, community, and houses of worship.

I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to all school board members in the Fifth Congressional District of Texas for their continued dedication and hard work. Their contribution to the education of our children is truly helping to shape the future of our communities and our Nation.

#### HONORING ALICE A. HUFFMAN

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great leader, a woman of distinction, and a good friend, Alice Huffman. This month marks Alice's 30th year of leadership in her efforts for equality and justice. The ninth Congressional District salutes and thanks Alice for her tireless and spirited service.

Alice Huffman was elected president of the California State Conference of the NAACP in October 1999, where she is the first woman to hold this post. In this role, Alice leads 67 local branches, and more than 30 college chapters and youth units. With her leadership, they are continuing to fight for civil rights and equality for people of color all over California. In 2002, she was elected to the NAACP National Board of Directors, representing Region I.

Her past experience includes serving as an appointee in Governor Jerry Brown's administration where she was Chief Deputy Director of the State Parks and Recreation Department and, later his Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, a cabinet level position. Ms. Huffman has also served as the Associate Executive Director for politics for the California Teachers Association and State President of the Black American Political Association of California.

Alice is founder and president/CEO of A.C. Public Affairs, Inc., a public affairs firm that specializes in public and grass roots advocacy. She served on the Democratic National Committee as the cochair for the Site-Selection Committee for the 2004 Democratic Convention. She is also a member of the Rules Committee for the California Democratic Party. Currently, Ms. Huffman serves on the board for Capitol Focus, as well as serving on T-CAP, which is a consumer advisory panel to SBC/Pacific Bell. In addition, she serves on the "Commission for One California," a forum for diversity and understanding headed by Lieutenant Governor Bustamante. She has recently been appointed to Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson's Commission on Police Conduct.

Ms. Huffman graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with honors in Social/Cultural Anthropology. She then advanced her studies at the University of Pennsylvania, University of California, Davis, and University of

Southern California. Her long-standing tenet is that learning is a life-long process.

Alice was inducted into the Los Angeles African American Women Political Action Committee's Political Hall of Fame in April 2002 for her outstanding achievements as a social activist in the minority community. Ms. Huffman is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and also the Sacramento Branch NAACP. The Los Angeles Times called her one of the most powerful people in California. The California Journal listed her as one of the top 50 individuals who had the greatest impact on California over the past 25 years and her local African American newspaper, The Sacramento Observer, annually includes her in its 100 most influential citizens.

Finally, as we honor Ms. Huffman today, I want to thank her for being an exemplary role model, hero, and friend. I take great pride in joining Alice's family, friends, and colleagues to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of the marvelous Alice Huffman.

#### HONORING THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association as the organization celebrates its 50th anniversary. I take great pride in the fact that two companies from my home district, Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative in Gainesboro, Tennessee, and North Central Telephone Cooperative in Lafayette, Tennessee, are among the founding members of NTCA.

Forming soon after the Rural Electrification Administration (REA)—now known as the Rural Utilities Service—was granted authority to make loans to telephone companies, the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), along with Twin Lakes and North Central, has evolved from providing basic multi-party telephone service to offering a full array of advanced telecommunications services.

The idea of expanding the scope and authority of the REA began in the late 1930s when REA Administrator John Carmody wrote: "Personally, I have long felt there was a real opportunity for constructive assistance to rural people in the idea of Federal financing of farm telephone lines. It seems to me that the rural people have just as much right to up-to-date communication as they have to modern power. There's no question in my mind but that Government assistance will be required if the job is ever to be completed."

This idea remained just an idea until 1944 when Senator Lister Hill (D-AL) introduced legislation calling for the formation of the Rural Telephone Administration, modeled after the REA. Senator Hill was soon joined in his effort to bring telephone service to rural America by Representative W.R. "Bob" Poage (D-TX), who introduced similar legislation granting the REA the authority to make loans for the extension and improvement of rural telephone serv-

ice. President Harry Truman signed the telephone amendments to the Rural Electrification Act into law on October 28, 1949.

Soon after, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) created a telephone committee, composed of representatives of newly-formed joint electric-telephone cooperative organizations. By 1954, representatives from these co-ops, with the encouragement of NRECA, decided that the time had come to form a separate national organization to represent telephone cooperatives. On June 1, 1954, eight companies—BEK Mutual Aid Corporation (Steele, North Dakota); Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative (Chase City, Virginia); Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company (Bethel, Missouri); Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative Inc. (Circle, Montana); Pineland Telephone Cooperative Inc. (Metter, GA); Winnebago Cooperative Telephone Association (Lake Mills, Iowa); and my constituents at Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative and North Central Telephone Cooperative—formed the National Telephone Cooperative Association, which was later renamed the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association.

One of the first recipients of telephone loans from the REA was Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative, which was founded on March 13, 1951. With its \$25 membership fee and a REA loan approved in November of that same year, Twin Lakes was able to purchase an existing telephone company and expanded telephone service to Clay, Overton, Pickett and Fentress counties in northern Middle Tennessee. Soon, Twin Lakes was serving twelve exchanges and had customers stretched over 1,150 miles of line. By 1959, Twin Lakes was able to lower its membership fee to \$10, which finally put the luxury of a telephone within reach of many who considered the initial membership fee of \$25 out of reach. Inundated with new customers, Twin Lakes soon had a backlog of close to 700 requests for service. People in rural Tennessee soon found that telephone service was not a luxury, but rather a necessity. Today, Twin Lakes has more than 40,000 access lines serving fifteen exchanges spread over Jackson, Clay, Overton, Pickett, Fentress, Smith, and Putnam counties in Tennessee.

Like Twin Lakes, North Central Telephone Cooperative formed in the shadow of the expansion of the REA. Like REA Administrator Carmody, then Lafayette Mayor Hugh Butler understood the importance of telecommunications in rural America. As he stated in the Macon County Times on Nov. 29, 1951: "The installation of modern dial telephone service with adequate long-distance facilities will put Lafayette on par with any rural county seat in Tennessee and will do much to insure continued progress and prosperity."

Prior to 1951, telephone service, if available, could only be described as sporadic. On March 8, 1951, Will Hall Sullivan, who served as North Central Telephone Cooperative's first general manager, was successful in joining 17 home-owned mutuals to form North Central Telephone Cooperative. By 1954, North Central had connected its first exchanges in Green Grove in Hillsdale. In just two years, North Central had expanded to serving 2,600 customers spread over ten exchanges: Lafayette, Hillsdale, Oak Grove, Green Grove, Bethpage, Scotsville, Pleasant Shade, Red Boiling Springs, Defeated and Westmoreland. Like Twin Lakes, North Central also faced rapid ex-

pansion as folks in rural America understood the necessity of a telephone and the importance of telecommunications. Today North Central serves in excess of 21,000 customers. As part of its commitment to providing advanced telecommunications services to its customers, North Central, in 1989, went beyond the then-standard copper cable and analog switches that were still heavily used. The innovative cooperative instead opted to install digital switches and fiber-optic cable, and soon the rest of the industry was following. Some 15 years later, these technologies are still widely considered the top of the line. This record of providing state-of-the-art technology continues today with its provision of high-speed Internet access, long distance and digital satellite services. As North Central's general manager, F. Thomas Rowland, said: "Providing state-of-the-art technology has always been one of our main priorities. It's our way of giving the community what it needs to be a great place to live, work and raise a family."

Twin Lakes and North Central are indicative of the membership of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association. NTCA's membership has expanded from eight members in seven states to 558 members across 45 states. These small rural telecommunications systems provide voice services to approximately 3,270,000 subscribers over a combined territory comprising about 40 percent of the geographic United States. On average, NTCA member-companies serve rural areas with a population density averaging between one to five customers per square mile, a sharp contrast from the average of 130 customers per square mile for larger companies. Today, NTCA member-companies on average serve 5,100 subscribers. In addition to their traditional voice offerings, they provide rural customers with Internet, wireless, long distance, paging, and cable or satellite television services. Through it all, NTCA members have maintained that local touch which can only be found by folks serving their friends and neighbors. With the financial assistance of the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative and CoBank, NTCA members remain on the cutting edge of technology by expanding broadband opportunities through fiber-to-the-home projects in communities across this country. As committees examine the issue of broadband availability across the nation, NTCA rural telephone companies continue to connect the heartland of America to the world. NTCA and its 558 member-companies should be commended for their ever-present commitment to rural America. Happy 50th Anniversary, NTCA.

#### COMMUNITY COLLEGES SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union address on Tuesday night, President George W. Bush proposed new job-training grants for community colleges. This Member is extremely pleased with this proposal, as the initiative would allow America's community colleges to train workers for the industries that are creating the most new jobs.



Nebraska community colleges are certainly encouraged by the President's proposal, as evidenced by the November 22, 2004, Omaha World-Herald article entitled, "Nebraska Educators Like Sound of Bush Proposals." Mr. Jerry Moskus, President of Metropolitan Community College in Omaha was quoted in the article saying, "The great part about this was seeing the Members of Congress stand up and applaud for community colleges. I think that was the high point of my month."

Job training programs are essential, according to Mr. Barry Kennedy, President of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "Those of us involved with economic growth have been talking about this for the last year or so," Kennedy told the World Herald. "We still have people who say they would hire more people if they could just find people with the skills they needed."

The President's proposal would also encourage students to take more rigorous courses in high school. As an incentive for students to take more demanding high school courses, the President's proposal would provide larger grants for college under the Pell Grant program. This program is said to be consistent with Nebraska's P-16 Initiative, an initiative that integrates a student's education beginning in preschool and ending with a 4-year college degree.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this Member is intrigued and enthusiastically supportive of the President's proposal. Also, this Member would like to express his support for community colleges and the quality education they provide.

#### HONORING JENNIFER HUNTER

##### HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennifer Hunter, one of my remarkable young constituents who had an outstanding accomplishment.

Jennifer is a 12 year-old little leaguer in my hometown of Tarpon Springs, Florida. In April of last year, she used her 60 mile per-hour fastball to throw a no-hitter against one of her team's opponents. She had a 6 and 3 record and a 2.10 Earned Run Average in 54 innings last season. Baseball fans know that these are tremendous accomplishments. They are especially impressive considering Jennifer is playing against boys.

Jennifer, you see, loves baseball and wanted to test her skills against her peers, both male and female. Her teammates were unsure about having a girl on their team at first, until they saw her play. Jennifer recently told Sports Illustrated that "they thought I wasn't going to be any good." However, she says, they became closer once they saw her play, particularly after her no-hitter. Jennifer wants to play in the Women's Professional Baseball League next year, and though the league has no players younger than 18, I am confident that she will give the older women all they can handle.

Mr. Speaker, Jennifer Hunter has shown me, my friends, and neighbors that hard work, determination, and perseverance can help us achieve what many, if not most, thought impossible. I congratulate her and her family and

urge our colleagues to wish her luck in her future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. CECILIA COTA-ROBLES SUAREZ

##### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute today to the life of Dr. Cecilia Cota-Robles Suarez, a longtime political and educational leader. She passed away last week after a courageous battle against breast cancer. This is why I have fought and continue to fight tirelessly on behalf of breast cancer research, through such legislation as H.R. 1385 which recently passed the House. Without proper funding, it will become increasingly difficult to save the lives of people like Dr. Suarez, whose remarkable and inspirational life touched the lives of countless people. So I join today with family and friends in honoring her memory.

To all those who knew Dr. Suarez, she exhibited love of life, generosity of spirit, and compassion for her fellow man. She was a dedicated teacher who challenged those around her to strive for a better life through educational opportunities, never being satisfied with the way the world is but instead questioning what it could be.

After receiving her Doctorate in education from U.C.L.A., Dr. Suarez went on to fight for early childhood and bilingual schooling. As President of the Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE) and member of the National Chicana Foundation, as well as the Tri-Counties Mexican American Political Association, she was a passionate advocate and leading activist for Hispanic education. Her tremendous selflessness led her to her role as community leader and respected member of her community.

I join today with family and friends in paying tribute to Dr. Cecilia Suarez, beloved wife, mother, and friend. She is survived by her three children Francisco, Mike, and Laura, and her four grandchildren Arnado, Michelle, Christine, and Victoria. Her generous and gregarious spirit will be deeply missed by all.

#### CELEBRATING THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE 3D MEDICAL COMMAND AT THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE CENTER AT FORT GILLEM

##### HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a very special occasion. The United States Army Reserve 3d Medical Command will conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Fort Gillem United States Army Reserve Center on Friday, the sixth of February, 2004 at Fort Gillem Georgia located in the 13th district of Georgia.

During my tenure as the Representative of the 13th District of Georgia, the support of Fort Gillem continues to be my top priority.

Not only is the installation a vital element to our country's defense, but is the third largest employer in the largest county in my district. The United States Army Reserve Center provides a 1,600 person, two story training and storage facility, medical warehouse, and vehicle maintenance to the multi-mission, multi-service component functions of Fort Gillem. As the logistical base for the United States Army, Fort Gillem consists of 142 buildings and 77 tenants spread over 1,427 acres, with the First U.S. Army as the senior occupant.

The First U.S. Army trains, mobilizes and deploys Army Reserve and National Guard units in the eastern United States, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands, and as directed, conducts Homeland Defense, in support of national objectives. The installation is also the home of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group Headquarters, responsible for two medium company operational facilities and a Battalion Headquarters. The 2d United States Army Recruiting Brigade Administrative facility and Army Medical Department detachment also provide operational readiness as major tenants of Fort Gillem.

Soon, an 88,000 square foot special design forensic Criminal Investigation laboratory that includes labs, administration, evidence storage and training and conference rooms will join Fort Gillem. With the opening of this new facility on Fort Gillem, the United States Army Reserve 3d Medical Command is now better equipped to continue its critical missions in support of our great Nation, and on behalf of the constituents of the 13th district of Georgia, welcome.

#### RECOGNIZING BERNHARD "BARNEY" MAYRSOHN ON HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

##### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Purchase, NY, resident Barney Mayrsohn for his life of service to our country, from the snowy forests of the Battle of the Bulge in WWII to the snowy streets of Moscow today.

In 1943, Barney Mayrsohn was hard at work in college, but with the world at war, he would enter the U.S. Army, joining his father and two brothers, who were also serving. In September of 1944, he was shipped aboard the Queen Mary, with 1,500 of his fellow soldiers, to the European Theater. A member of the 106th Infantry Division, Mr. Mayrsohn would find himself thrust into the largest land battle of WWII in which the United States participated: the German offensive in the Ardennes in the winter of 1944-1945 that would come to be known as the Battle of the Bulge.

During the fighting, Mr. Mayrsohn would prove a brave and resilient soldier, getting wounded twice and earning two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, and a Combat Infantry Badge. As the battle continued unrelentingly, the 106th would lose half of the division, and Barney would be taken captive in December 1944.

He was taken by train, along with other Allied prisoners-of-war, to the Stalag 4B prison camp. Along the way, he narrowly escaped



death yet again, as Allied aircraft, while bombing the German railroad tracks, mistakenly dropped a bomb on the train car in front of his.

Mr. Mayrsohn's transition into life as a prisoner was eased thanks to the generosity of British prisoners, who provided him with some Red Cross food packages and extra clothing that they had stored away. Over time, as the Red Army continued its inexorable advance westward, the Red Cross packages ran out and no more were on the way. Prisoners began to starve. Mr. Mayrsohn lost more than forty pounds.

As the sounds of artillery became louder over the spring, it was clear that the Red Army was near. In April of 1945, the Russians arrived at the gates of Stalag 4B. After more than five months in enemy captivity, Mr. Mayrsohn was free.

The captain of the liberating Russian unit gathered together Mr. Mayrsohn and four of his fellow American soldiers with three Russian female military personnel for a picture. This photo would return with Mr. Mayrsohn to America. And there it lay, untouched for 57 years, in a bottom drawer.

After the war, Mr. Mayrsohn would return to college, have a family, and start a successful international trading business. In 2003, he decided to use a previously planned trip to Scandinavia as the perfect opportunity to visit Russia and attempt to reunite with the three women in the photo and the Russian officer who snapped it. Mr. Mayrsohn worked with the Russian Cultural Center in Washington, DC, and the Office of Veterans Affairs in Moscow to discover the identity of the soldiers. While it proved impossible to find those particular people, the Office of Veterans Affairs was able to find two female and two male veterans of the battles that liberated the camp.

In August of 2003, accompanied by two soldiers from the American Embassy in Moscow, Mr. Mayrsohn took the four liberators out to a banquet dinner at a prestigious restaurant in Red Square. At the event, gifts were exchanged, as were stories recalling an age of unprecedented cooperation between the two world powers.

He then met with the officer in charge of Russian Veteran Affairs, who not only agreed to help find the soldiers in the picture; he also presented Mr. Mayrsohn with the Russian Blue Star—similar to our Combat Infantry Badge.

These meetings were covered in the Russian media. The "Red Star," the Russian Defense Ministry's official newspaper, even printed an article on Mr. Mayrsohn's story. While the search goes on for more of his liberators, Mr. Mayrsohn, through his efforts, has helped to create goodwill between our two countries. With the Cold War over, and each country attempting to put aside past differences to look ahead towards a common future, efforts by people such as Mr. Mayrsohn are extremely important. Therefore, even if it is ultimately not possible to find the women in his photo, I would say that his mission was a great success.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably unable to cast votes on Tuesday, January 28 and Wednesday, January 29, 2004 as I was part of a Congressional Delegation visiting our troops in Iraq. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

"Yes" on rollcall No. 6, passage of H.R. 1385, authorizing the U.S. Postal Service to issue stamps supporting breast cancer research.

"Yes" on rollcall No. 7, passage of H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act.

"Yes" on rollcall No. 8, the Baldwin substitute to S. 1920, regarding the Extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

"Yes" on rollcall No. 9, the motion to recommit S. 1920 with instructions.

"Yes" on rollcall No. 10, final passage of S. 1920, regarding the Extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

"No" on rollcall No. 11, motion to instruct conferees on S. 1920, regarding the Extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

## TRIBUTE TO JAY W. WEISS: A GREAT PERSON AND A GREAT PUBLIC PERSON

### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, with great pride—but with deep sorrow—I rise to pay my homage to one of Miami-Dade County's giant leaders, the late Mr. Jay W. Weiss. His untimely demise late Saturday night, January 31, 2004, has cast a veil of sadness over our community.

Indeed, as the business entrepreneur par excellence that he evoked, this extraordinary man easily communed with the pains and anguishes of ordinary people and transformed them into his very own by uplifting them into a timely rationale for creating appropriate solutions to them.

As Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Public Health Trust, he spearheaded the passage of the half-penny tax that now provides continuous support to Jackson Memorial Hospital, along with the funding of the Ryder Trauma Center and the University of Miami/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. These are but a few of the great initiatives his humanitarian spirit willed to come to fruition, and these programs now serve to lessen the burdens of various illnesses and enhance the quality of life for countless people in Miami-Dade County.

Though a highly private individual, he virtually consecrated his life to public service. In so doing he symbolized everything that is good and noble about the American spirit of idealism and optimism in serving our fellowmen.

Our community genuinely feels the loss of a truly decent and caring man who made it his personal business to reach out to the less fortunate among us. Dr. Bernard Fogel, former dean of the University of Miami Medical School, succinctly described Mr. Weiss as someone who believed and lived by the tenets of tzedekah, "... the Jewish tradition of charity ... that's what he was motivated by—doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do."

The numerous accolades with which government officials and various organizations have honored him buttress the unequivocal testimony of the utmost gratitude and respect he enjoyed from a grateful community. He truly epitomized the vision, resilience and compassion of a servant of God whose life served as an example of the great difference each one of us can make on behalf of our community's well-being once we hearken to the calling of our common stewardship over one another.

This is the legacy Mr. Jay W. Weiss bequeathed to us. Indeed, I am privileged to have seen and marveled at the magnificent works that emanated from his boundless heart and great faith. I now join our community in thanking God for letting him grace us with his noble presence during his earthly sojourn.

## BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (S. 1920) to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, our current bankruptcy system is in need of reform. Bankruptcy filings have risen steadily in recent years—growing by nearly 140% during the past four years alone. In Wisconsin, bankruptcy filings are up two-and-a-half times what they were just 10 years ago.

The costs associated with discharging bankruptcy related debt, calculated at over \$40 billion in 2001, hurt all consumers through increased prices on goods and services. In fact, losses associated with bankruptcies alone cost the average American family around \$400 per year.

We need to reform our bankruptcy laws to protect those people truly in need of debt relief while holding accountable those who can repay their debt. The reforms contained in this amended legislation before us today accomplish this, and provide new disclosure requirements for lending institutions to offer better information to consumers about credit cards and

debt. This is particularly important for young adults who are bombarded by credit applications and have limited knowledge about the risks that accompany credit card ownership.

Further, the legislation will move child support and alimony payments up to the top of debt repayment priority lists. This will help prevent children from being unnecessarily hurt by the debt of their parents. The National Child Support Enforcement Association, the National District Attorneys Association and the Child Support Council all support this provision and this legislation.

In addition, this legislation will make permanent Chapter 12 bankruptcy provisions that provide relief to our family farmers. I have consistently supported temporary extensions of Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection because our nation's family farmers face unique circumstances that often pose unique financial risks outside their control. In Wisconsin, this situation has had the unfortunate affect of driving family farmers out of business at a rate of nearly five per day.

The crisis in our agricultural economy is not contained to Wisconsin alone. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 13% decline in farmers between 1998 and 2008. This is the largest projected decline of any occupational category in the U.S. economy.

The permanent extension of Chapter 12 protections contained in this bill will allow family farmers facing bankruptcy to reorganize their debt so they do not lose their farms to creditors. Chapter 12 gives hope to financially-strapped farmers who feel that they have nowhere else to turn. It gives them room to recover from an economic crunch and still hold on to their livelihood—and it has proven to work.

According to one study, 74 percent of family farmers who filed Chapter 12 bankruptcy are still farming, and 61 percent of farmers who went through Chapter 12 believe it was helpful in getting them back on their feet. This protection is critical right now, during this depressed economy, because many cash-strapped producers are under pressure to meet operating expenses and pay off bank notes. I am pleased the House is taking bipartisan action today to make permanent Chapter 12 protection for farmers, giving them the opportunity to reorganize their debts and preserve their farms for future generations.

While I have objections to the majority using legislation that would simply extend the farm bankruptcy provisions of Chapter 12 for six months, as a vehicle for any other legislation, I support final passage of this legislation. The overall benefits of the comprehensive bankruptcy reform and the permanent extension of Chapter 12 now included will provide needed protection to consumers and relief to those in need. I urge my colleagues' support.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, due to the flu, I was unable to vote during the following roll

call votes on January 28th. However, if I had been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Roll Call No. 8 (On Agreeing to the Baldwin Amendment)—no; Roll Call No. 9 (On Motion To Recommit with Instructions)—no; Roll Call No. 10 (On Passage of S 1920)—yes; Roll Call No. 11 (On Motion to Instruct Conferees)—no.

#### HONORING LINDA LEY

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and fellow Nevadan Linda Ley on her retirement from CASA, the Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children's office. Linda has dedicated her life to ensuring that the youngest and most powerless members of our society have someone looking out for their best interests and who cares that they are able to find a better life.

During my years in the Nevada legislature I worked closely with Linda to develop legislation that helped foster children transition into adulthood, and to protect victims of abuse and neglect. I urge the members of this House to join with me in wishing her well in her retirement, and to join her in her call for more volunteers to advocate on behalf of children.

#### CONGRATULATING ROMALO M. "CAP" CAPOVILLA

### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate my friend, Romalo M. "Cap" Capovilla, as he celebrates his 80th birthday. His has been a lifetime of hard work and service.

Cap was born in Dunsmuir, California, on January 4, 1924, to immigrant parents. After graduating from Dunsmuir High School in 1942, he joined the U.S. Army Air Force. He served honorably for three years, through the end of World War II.

After his military service, Cap returned to Dunsmuir and worked as a railroad conductor for 27 years. He also owned and operated a cattle ranch for 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, Cap has long been very involved in issues related to natural resources management and agriculture. He became a member of the Shasta River Water Association in 1981. He also belonged to the Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association, the California Cattlemen's Association, and the California Farm Bureau. He used his expertise in these areas to benefit youth. In fact, he received recognition for meritorious service to 4-H and worked many years at the junior auction.

In 1986, Cap was honored to be part of a 35-person delegation that delivered a 50-foot tall tree to Washington, DC, which became the first national Christmas tree from West of the Mississippi River.

Cap has contributed greatly to life in rural Northern California both civically and politically. In 1978, he was first elected as a member of the Siskiyou County Republican Central Committee. Two years later, he was elected to the Loan Committee of the Farmers Home Administration. For 30 years, he has been a member of the fraternal service organization, Knights of Columbus, and has served as Post Grand Knight. Additionally, he was named Knight of the Year in 1978 and 1998.

Cap is now enjoying retirement in Medford, Oregon, with his wife, Ruby.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in commending Cap Capovilla for his outstanding service to our country as a member of the Armed Forces, a community leader, and a good family man. I am personally thankful for his support and friendship.

#### HONORING MENTORS AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO RECRUIT MENTORS

SPEECH OF

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2004*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the mentoring caucus, I rise in support of H. Res. 491. This bill expresses the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the benefits of mentoring.

Mentoring programs that link children and young adults with the greatest needs to responsible adults are a proven method to help our struggling children. One valuable mentoring program is Big Brothers Big Sisters. In the St. Paul/Minneapolis region alone, more than 3000 children benefit from this mentoring program.

According to Kari Davis, the executive director of the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota:

Mentoring is about guiding and supporting young people so they can realize their highest dreams and potential. Minnesota maintains hundreds of quality youth mentoring programs that are community, school or workplace-based. With increased and sustained federal funding, mentoring programs can build their capacity to reach the 75,000 Minnesota young people who could benefit from a mentor.

I was so proud last night to have 2 outstanding people from Minnesota in the audience at the State of the Union last night. Little Brother David Moreno and Big Brother Jim Diesing were guests at last night's address. Paired together since 1998, their initial friendship has turned into more of a family bond. David is excelling in school, even taking an advanced math class. Jim has learned what is really important in life. They are a shining example of the good that comes from mentoring.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation and to look for opportunities to mentor themselves. I would like to thank the sponsor of this bill, Mr. OSBORNE from Nebraska, whose cousin the Honorable Kathleen Vellenga was a mentor of mine when I served in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

WESTBURY LANGUAGE CENTER:  
SMALL BUSINESS OF THE  
MONTH FOR FEBRUARY 2004

### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to name Westbury Language Center in Westbury, New York, as February Small Business of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District of New York.

Many in our community know that small businesses are the backbone of Long Island's economic well-being. As the national economy continues to struggle, the energy, flexibility and innovation of our local small businesses have become essential. It is time to spotlight some of these businesses extraordinary achievements and contributions.

Westbury Language Center is a successful small business and an exceptional jewel to the Latino community in Long Island. Described as a cultural center for the community to study and appreciate the Spanish language, the Westbury Language Center has a reputation for providing all kinds of services related to the Spanish language and the Latino culture for children and adults. Latinos are the largest minority group in the United States and I am excited to celebrate and embrace the contributions that they have brought to our community and Long Island.

Maria Isabel Martinez, founder of Westbury Language Center, sold her home and used her retirement funds to realize her dreams of constructing a business that would serve the public and its needs. Three years later, Westbury Language Center not only offers courses in English as a Second Language (ESL) and teaches the Latino culture, including folkloric dances to children and adults, but it also provides instructional computer classes to Latino workers that are interested in learning a science that will ensure them a better job and a better quality of life.

Furthermore, pleasing the demands of the community, Maria plans to hold the Westbury Language Center's first workshop, "Now to Start, Develop and Administer Your Own Business" sometime this year.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Maria Isabel Martinez and everyone at the Westbury Language Center for their hard work at providing our Latino community with services detrimental to their success and for allowing our community as a whole, to learn and appreciate the Spanish language and the Latino culture.

### HONORING ROSE MARY AND EARNEST BROUSSARD

### HON. CHRIS BELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rose Mary Enable Broussard and Earnest J. Broussard on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

In the spring of 1953, Rose Mary Enable of Parks, LA, and her cousins attended the spring festival at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in the Fifth Ward of Houston, TX. Ear-

nest J. Broussard of Delcambre, LA, and his brother attended the same spring festival. It began to rain so Rose and her cousins and Earnest and his brother went to Club Matinee.

Upon setting eyes on him across the room and then meeting and talking to him, Rose Mary remarked that she was going to marry him. They became engaged in October of 1953 and were married January 30, 1954 at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church.

Rose Mary and Earnest Broussard began their life together in the Independence Heights area where Rose was a housewife and Earnest a plumber with Balloon Plumbing Company where he worked until 1991.

The Broussards have two daughters, Gilda and Robin, and one son, Earnest, Jr. They are now blessed with three granddaughters, Stephanie (12), Stacie (11), and Jaydin (2).

While their children were growing up, the Broussards were very active in the community and with their children and participated in PTA, Scouts, band, sports, and church activities. The Broussards are still very active in the church they have attended since they were first married. Earnest is active in the Knights of St. Peter Clavier and became a Fourth Degree Knight of St. Peter Clavier in 1972. Rose Mary and Earnest Broussard have both been honored for their outstanding dedication and commitment to their church.

I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Rose Mary and Earnest Broussard on 50 wonderful years of marriage. I wish them continued happiness and a life filled with strong love, abiding faith and loving family and friends.

### RECOGNIZING BRIAN MCCALMON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian McCalmon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 370, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 12 years Brian has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 34 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as patrol leader, troop guide, den chief, and troop bugler. Brian earned the honor of Brave, Warrior, and Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and served on staff at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation.

For his Eagle Scout project, Brian planted new pine trees at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church and removed four diseased trees.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brian C. McCalmon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING WILLIAM B. GOULD  
AND THE BRAVE MEN AND  
WOMEN WHO ESCAPED THE HOR-  
RORS OF SLAVERY ON SEP-  
TEMBER 21, 1862

### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place in our Nation's RECORD the remarks made by William B. Gould IV, Charles A. Beardsley Professor of Law, Emeritus, Stanford Law School, and Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board from 1994 to 1998, at the Wilmington Riverwalk Watermen Sign Dedication.

Thank you for your invitation to speak at this Riverwalk Waterman Sign Dedication here in Wilmington, North Carolina, the City of William Benjamin Gould's birth in 1837 and his escape from slavery 25 years later. Let me also give special thanks to Beverly Tetterton of the New Hanover Public Library for providing research and resource in my writing of *Diary of a Contraband*, and who has been a key organizer of this event. Also, I wish to acknowledge the members of my family present here today: my wife, Hilda Elizabeth Gould, and my sister, Dorothy Gerber and her husband, Hermann. They and my three sons, William Benjamin V, Timothy Samuel, and Edward Blair join in the honor and tribute to the brave men of September 21, 1862, particularly my great-grandfather, William Benjamin Gould.

Throughout the South, there is scarcely a word noted about the great struggle for freedom and liberation undertaken nearly a century and a half ago in the War of the Rebellion. And there is little or no mention or acknowledgment of the black military involvement in this effort, the "holiest of all causes" as William B. Gould called it, to obtain the New World's central political and legal achievement.

As I have traveled through the states of the former "would be Confederacy", as William B. Gould called it, I have been struck by the abiding omnipresence of Confederate statues and commemorative markers. Just this past weekend, we passed through Richmond's Monument Avenue to see again the memorials to Jefferson Davis, "would be King Jeff" as William B. Gould called him, Stonewall Jackson and Jeb Stuart and the laud and honor given to their pursuit of "constitutional principles" and the Confederate Navy against which William B. Gould and his comrades fought and defeated.

Thus it is meet and right that Wilmington, North Carolina, this day takes note of the perilous journey that William B. Gould and 7 other comrades began here at the foot of Orange Street on the night of September 21, 1862, and the wider complement of 14 others who left Wilmington in concert with those 8 who boarded the U.S.S. *Cambridge*. It is meet and right that we note their names, William B. Gould's comrades being Joseph Hall, Andrew Hall, George Price, John Mackey, Charles Giles, John Mitchell and William Chanse. These men were to use their knowledge of North Carolina and its waterways on behalf of our country to interdict supplies destined for Lee's army in Virginia.

But as your sign properly notes, the September 21st escape involves others as well, many of them William B. Gould's associates and correspondents: Virgil Richardson (for whom one of William B. Gould's sons may be named) and Ben Greer who boarded the *Penobscot*, and Thomas Cowan, Charles Mallett

and Frank Clinton of the *Monticello*. All of them boarded these North Atlantic Blockading vessels near the mouth of the Cape Fear River for the same purpose . . . freedom and participation in the war effort against slavery. Many of these men, both literate and skilled, became key players in Reconstruction, the South's first brief Nineteenth Century interlude with democracy. Many, though not William B. Gould, returned to Wilmington after its liberation in 1865.

These men, part of the 8,000 who fled the Confederacy to fight for freedom in the U.S. Navy were part of a silent black exodus which transformed the war's nature. They made my life possible. And more than any other event since September 21, 1862, and its aftermath, here and now, 141 years and 1 month later, they provide hope for my grandchildren, Timothy Samuel Jr. and Joseph Jeremy and the generations of all mankind yet to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the words of William G. Gould IV and all they represent as he remembers his great-grandfather, William B. Gould.

#### TRIBUTE TO DOLORES DICKMAN

##### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the wonderful life and exceptional accomplishments of a remarkable woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this distinguished citizen for her impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service. It is to commend this eminent citizen that I rise to honor Dolores Dickman.

Dolores Dickman has been on the front lines of progress for decades and has proven to be a potent force in transforming the landscape of our city and State. Her indomitable spirit has sustained her through many challenges and molded a life of notable accomplishment. Dolores came to our community from her native Kansas and graduated from the University of Denver. She has used her talents and skills to advance the public good and the well being of working men and women. She has been a political activist, labor leader and has remained in the vanguard of those dedicated to economic and social justice. Dolores was the first woman State director of the Committee on Political Action for the AFL-CIO and was a powerful advocate for the rights of working people and the well being of our families. Some of us do not comprehend how far we've come. There was a time when fundamental decency and equity for working people were not part of our shared values. Dolores worked along side Cesar Chavez, brought food to striking workers and has engaged in the struggles that have improved the human condition. At the international level, Histadrut has honored her for her immeasurable contributions to the labor movement in Israel. For all of her efforts in this regard, we owe Dolores a great debt of gratitude.

Those who know Dolores know that politics matter. She is well known for her outspoken commentary and years of service to the Democratic Party. She marched in Selma for the civil liberties of all people. She took a seat on a plane next to Martin Luther King, Jr. to

share her thoughts and visited then President John F. Kennedy at the White House. She has recruited notable civic leaders for public office and has been instrumental in winning many local, State and national elections. Dolores has been the recipient of numerous public honors and has been characterized as the "grand dame of North Denver politics" and a political "powerhouse." While all of these truly reflect the standing and regard in which we hold Dolores, I would simply add that she has the rare ability to balance pragmatism and high purpose, which is uncommon among those engaged in public life. She knows that politics is not easy nor has it ever been. Dolores has perspective—she knows that the contest is never over and the field is never quite taken. I remember Dolores referencing in a Denver Post column that all the political posturing in the world doesn't mean squat if people don't vote. As usual, Dolores cuts to the heart of the matter. She understands what is vital to our democracy as well as what is important in the calculus of public affairs.

The contributions of Dolores Dickman are rich in consequence and on behalf of the citizens of the 1st Congressional District of Colorado, I wish to express our gratitude. Her service, accomplishments and civic virtue command our respect and admiration. Please join me in paying tribute to Dolores Dickman, a distinguished citizen. It is the values, leadership and commitment she exhibits on a daily basis that serve to build a better future for all Americans.

#### HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI

##### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Ms. KAPTUR. I am pleased to be the sponsor of H. Res. 58, a resolution recognizing the accomplishments of Ignacy Jan Paderewski as a musician, composer, statesman, and philanthropist and recognizing the 11th Anniversary of the return of his remains to Poland.

I have been joined by thirty-six of my colleagues, including: Representatives ACKERMAN, BALDWIN, BELL, BERKLEY, BERMAN, BERRY, BLUMENAUER, BRADY, BROWN, BURTON, CARDIN, CROWLEY, DINGELL, EMANUEL, ENGEL, FATAH, FRANK, GOODE, GUTIERREZ, HOFFEL, HOLT, KANJORSKI, KILDEE, KLECZKA, KUCINICH, LANTOS, LEE, LIPINSKI, LOFGREN, McDERMOTT, MENENDEZ, PRICE, QUINN, C. SMITH, THOMPSON, and WATSON.

On June 12, 2003, the House Committee on International Relations unanimously voted in favor of H. Res. 58. I urge the House of Representatives to consider this important piece of legislation honoring Mr. Paderewski, Polish-Americans and the Polish people.

H. RES. 58

Whereas Ignacy Jan Paderewski, born in Poland in 1860, was a brilliant and popular pianist who performed hundreds of concerts in Europe and the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries;

Whereas Paderewski often donated the proceeds of his concerts to charitable causes;

Whereas, during World War I, Paderewski worked for the independence of Poland and served as the first Premier of Poland;

Whereas in December 1919, Paderewski resigned as Premier of Poland, and in 1921 he left politics to return to his music;

Whereas the German invasion of Poland in 1939 spurred Paderewski to return to political life;

Whereas Paderewski fought against the Nazi dictatorship in World War II by joining the exiled Polish Government to mobilize the Polish forces and to urge the United States to join the Allied Forces;

Whereas Paderewski died in exile in America on June 29, 1941, while war and occupation imperiled all of Europe;

Whereas by the direction of United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Paderewski's remains were placed along side America's honored dead in Arlington National Cemetery, where President Roosevelt said, "He may lie there until Poland is free.";

Whereas in 1963, United States President John F. Kennedy honored Paderewski by placing a plaque marking Paderewski's remains at the Mast of the Maine at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas in 1992, United States President George H.W. Bush, at the request of Lech Walesa, the first democratically elected President of Poland following World War II, ordered Paderewski's remains returned to his native Poland;

Whereas on June 26, 1992, the remains of Paderewski were removed from the Mast of the Maine at Arlington National Cemetery, and were returned to Poland on June 29, 1992;

"Whereas on July 5, 1992, Paderewski's remains were interred in a crypt at the St. John Cathedral in Warsaw, Poland; and

Whereas Paderewski wished his heart to be forever enshrined in America, where his lifelong struggle for democracy and freedom had its roots and was cultivated, and now his heart remains at the Shrine of the Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the accomplishments of Ignacy Jan Paderewski as a musician, composer, statesman, and philanthropist; and

(2) acknowledges the invaluable efforts of Ignacy Jan Paderewski in forging close Polish-American ties, on the 11th Anniversary of the return of Paderewski's remains to Poland.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO HENRY MCINTOSH

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a talented teacher from Walsenburg, Colorado. Henry McIntosh inspires and challenges his students to become better people. His teaching enthusiasm spirals through the community as he equips students with the knowledge to chase after their dreams. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Henry's tremendous service to the Walsenburg community.

This year the Colorado Department of Education recognized Henry as the top teacher in the state. He received the 2003 Outstanding Colorado Teacher Award for his extraordinary commitment to involving students in their communities and increasing student achievement by promoting school accountability. Henry helped to institute the first advanced placement programs at John Mall High School in order to give students in rural communities the

same opportunities that urban schools offer. He encourages students to be involved with their school by sponsoring the student-run organization that addresses concerns and suggestions for improving the school called the student senate. Henry pushes his students to work hard by organizing a literacy tour in Great Britain for his advanced placement students over Spring Break as a reward.

Mr. Speaker, Henry McIntosh is a wonderful ambassador for education who dedicates his life to teaching the next generation of leaders in his Walsenburg, Colorado community. Henry has taken the noble and challenging occupation of teaching to a new level of excellence. His compassionate and selfless service to Walsenburg and the Colorado community certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. Congratulations on your award Henry, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING GWEN ESTES,  
EDUCATOR EXTRAORDINAIRE

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gwen Estes, a recent recipient of the prestigious Gandhi, King, Ikeda Award. The international award, sponsored by a number of peace groups and Morehouse College in Atlanta, was presented to Ms. Estes for her commitment to promoting peace, unity and non-violence.

Gwen Estes is a former parole officer. The job never seemed quite right to Ms. Estes as she has always been about building for the future. Years of watching guards lead shackled inmates into the great abyss of the prison system ran counter to values passed along by Ms. Estes' mother, who spent years teaching school.

Seeking a career change, Gwen Estes followed in the family footsteps and choose teaching. However, she didn't pursue a mainstream teaching job. She opted for Hayward Community School, a last chance outpost for at-risk students who have been expelled for offenses ranging from fighting to selling drugs.

Working tirelessly with students who needed more help than their regular teachers could give, Ms. Estes is saving the lives of troubled teens starving for positive attention, respect and caring.

One need only look into the faces transfixed before her in her portable classroom to better understand why she received the prestigious peace award. Her classroom radiates with trust and compassion and Estes shares a connection with students who have felt alienated and alone in other settings.

Now unlike her years as a parole officer, when her reports could lead to long sentences foreshadowing destroyed lives, Gwen Estes is giving out hope in exceptionally large doses at Hayward Community School.

Ms. Estes is also President of the New Haven Board of Education, another factor that has contributed to success with her students. The confluence of her experiences as a school board member and parole officer gives her the kind of credibility many of her peers lack when working with at-risk students.

She always says, "I have voted to expel students but I much prefer giving out diplomas." Gwen Estes is giving students a foundation to break free of their problems, a reason to care. In many cases, it is something they would not have gotten if it weren't for her.

A description from one of her students aptly describes Ms. Estes' exemplary contributions to her students. "Even though she is a teacher, she is your friend. We can have good days or bad days, but she always tells us we can be what we want to be. Miss E is one of a kind."

Gwen Estes epitomizes the essence of the Ghandi, King, Ikeda award. She is bringing peace, unity, and hope to the classroom each day.

HONORING JOHN COLEMAN

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the contributions of Commissioner John Coleman of Hollywood, Florida. Mr. Coleman, a native of Rhode Island, retired to South Florida in 1992 and spent the rest of his life as a passionate advocate for the city of Hollywood and its beaches.

In 1998, Mr. Coleman was elected to the Hollywood City Commission. During his term, he championed environmental issues and fought to protect Hollywood Beach from overdevelopment. Area residents fondly recall his ebullient spirit and passionate, fiery rhetoric. After serving his term, Mr. Coleman lent his voice as an activist and civic leader. He campaigned at the local, state and national levels for candidates he supported. As President of the Broward Council of Democratic Club Presidents, President of the Hollywood Democratic Club, and member of the Broward Democratic Executive Committee, Mr. Coleman lent his voice to a multitude of issues for the betterment of life for all in South Florida.

Mr. Coleman is survived by six sons, a daughter, his long-time companion, and nine grandchildren. He will be sorely missed for his exuberance and his dedication to civic activism.

AMBER ALERT HAS HAPPY ENDING—WOMAN NOTICES STOLEN CAR AND CALLS 911

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I bring to your attention the story of an AMBER Alert in action and working to save the lives of New Mexico's children.

The AMBER Alerts are currently carried by New Mexico's broadcast media via the same Emergency Alert System used in severe weather and national emergencies. The tones so familiar to citizens during storms are now helping to save children's lives. On Wednesday, November 19, Juan David Olive, 4, lay sleeping in the back of his father's Geo Metro in the parking lot of a restaurant on Isleta Bou-

levard in Albuquerque. When the boy's father returned to the parking lot, his car was missing, and he knew his son was still inside. Authorities issued an AMBER Alert for the boy with a description of the car. Nadine Marquis was in the parking lot of a local electronics store when she saw what appeared to be the stolen car. Upon closer investigation, she heard crying inside and called the police. When authorities arrived, they found the boy and returned him safely to his parents.

Mr. Speaker, Albuquerque began implementing the AMBER Alert system in 2001 when the New Mexico Broadcasters Association signed an agreement with the police department. I encourage their effort. Now, AMBER Alert is statewide in New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and all the residents of New Mexico in honoring and thanking Nadine Marquis. AMBER Alerts have proven effective in finding missing children, but could not succeed without the help of sharp-eyed people like Nadine. I commend her for her efforts, and I am sure there will be many others like her who will help save the lives of children in New Mexico and nationwide.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BEN RIZZI

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise before you to recognize a remarkable citizen from my district. Ben Rizzi recently retired after 30 years of service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Colorado. Ben dedicated his professional life to the conservation of Colorado's natural resources and I am proud to call his contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

Ben was born in Walsenburg, Colorado. Following high school, he attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Throughout college, Ben worked for the Forest Service over each summer vacation. It was during this time that Ben's love for the outdoors began to influence his career path. After receiving his degree, Ben took a job on a cattle ranch near La Veta. After working on the ranch for a year, Ben took a position with the Soil Conservation Service, which was eventually renamed the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Throughout his tenure with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ben achieved great success as a District Conservationist. Ben worked tirelessly for the betterment of every landowner and parcel of land he encountered. Ben is truly an outstanding steward of the land and the benefits of his tireless devotion and hard work will be felt for generations to come. Although Ben is retiring, his legacy will live on through his two sons, both of whom have followed in their father's footsteps and chosen careers in the field of natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Ben Rizzi. Ben spent nearly three decades working for the betterment of Colorado's farming and ranching communities. Ben will be missed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. However, he will now have more time to spend with his family and his

many friends throughout Colorado. Thank you Ben for your service.

# NASA FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (S. 610) to amend the provision of title 5, United States Code, to provide for workforce flexibilities and certain Federal personnel provisions relating to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Workforce Flexibility Act is intended to help NASA recruit and retain the skilled workforce needed to perform its mission.

I applaud my colleagues, their staffs, and employee groups for working to improve this legislation from the version that was introduced. Initially, the bill contained language that would have removed the cap on the number of NASA employees permitted to participate in workforce demonstration projects. Eliminating the cap would have allowed NASA to include its entire workforce in a demonstration project before these flexibilities had been tested with smaller groups of employees.

In addition, a provision establishing an exchange program between NASA employees and private sector employees was removed from the bill. Such public-private exchange programs have the potential to create conflicts of interest and lead to the disclosure of corporate trade secrets. I am pleased that both of these problematic provisions have been removed from the bill.

Although I support this legislation, I am concerned about the process by which the Bush Administration has approached civil service reform in recent years. In granting personnel flexibilities to numerous agencies, the Administration has failed to ensure that these agencies have the infrastructure and safeguards in place to successfully implement these new authorities. The Administration also has failed to evaluate the effectiveness of these flexibilities before allowing other agencies to utilize them.

Moreover, civil service reform is best undertaken on a governmentwide basis, not on the agency-by-agency basis that the Administration seems to favor. A piecemeal approach fragments the civil service, making it difficult to ensure that Federal employees are treated fairly.

Indeed, the preference for governmentwide reforms is shared by many experts who have studied the workforce challenges facing the civil service. In 2001, the Office of Personnel Management stated that "it is important to retain governmentwide approaches, authorities, entitlements, and requirements." During the consideration of the Department of Defense (DoD) authorization bill last year, the Comptroller General testified that it would be prudent and appropriate for Congress to address the personnel authorities DoD was seeking on a "governmentwide basis and in a manner that assures that appropriate performance management systems and safeguards are in

place before new authorities are implemented in any specific agency.

Even the Senate sponsor of this NASA personnel bill has advocated a governmentwide approach. In 2000, Senator VOINOVICH released a report, concluding that "the Federal government is in dire need of a unified strategy to rebuild the civil service" (emphasis added).

A significant achievement of the last century was the enactment of laws designed to create a professional, competent Federal civil service. Recent actions by the Administration to grant broad exemptions to these laws, with little forethought and little oversight, have the potential to do far more harm than good.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO HELEN BURKETT

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life of a remarkable woman from my district. Helen Burkett from Durango, Colorado passed away recently at the age of ninety-eight. Helen was a beloved figure in the Durango community and as her family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we take the time to recognize her many contributions here today.

Helen was born on her family's Durango farm in 1906. She remained on the property for 94 years. Helen attended grade school in a one-room building located near Lemon Reservoir. When construction began on the Vallecito Reservoir in 1936, Helen opened a store on the farm in order to help her family through the "Great Depression." Helen was a dedicated businesswoman, and after 67 years in business, "Helen's Store" achieved the status of "local landmark" in recognition of her tremendous service to her patrons.

Helen also delighted in the ranching life. She was an accomplished cattlegirl and was always willing to share her skill and knowledge with younger generations. In 1994, the Durango Professional Rodeo Company recognized Helen's contributions to the ranching community when they awarded her the Western Heritage Award, given to those dedicated to the promotion of Western culture. Those who knew her well remember Helen's zest for life, as well as her caring and nurturing disposition. There is no question that Durango is a better place as the result of Helen's many contributions.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life of Helen Burkett. Helen was a true frontierswoman who had a tremendous impact on her community. Above all, Helen was a loving mother, a wonderful grandmother, a caring great-grandmother and a loyal friend to many. The Durango community and the State of Colorado will truly miss her. My heart goes out to Helen's loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

HONORING RETIRED SGT. BOB LEWIS

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran, retired Sgt. Bob Lewis. Lewis was an 18-year-old Army recruit in Camp Fannin, Texas, when his captain dropped a grenade during a demonstration. Lewis rolled onto it with his helmet, and then tossed it into a nearby ditch where it exploded into bits of shrapnel. Had the grenade gone off where it was dropped, he says, it likely would have injured or killed many of the 29 infantrymen watching the demonstration.

It was 1945, shortly after U.S. troops defeated Germany in World War II, but after Japan surrendered and, at the time, Lewis thought nothing of his heroic act.

The long-since-retired technical sergeant, who went on to become a well-known Fremont educator, has not received any recognition or medals for his heroic efforts to save the members of his infantry, while still a young recruit.

Because Lewis' act took place nearly 60 years ago, securing the necessary documentation would require months of research. An eyewitness would be almost impossible to locate as most of Lewis' fellow soldiers and superior officers have died.

Lewis may be eligible for the Soldier's Medal, which is awarded for an act of heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. For the time being, Lewis who once guarded 1,400 German prisoners in Bazencourt, France, says he is content with the small green patch, emblazoned with a gold wreath, on his Army jacket. It's a meritorious service unit citation, awarded to his outfit for postwar service.

Lewis not only distinguished himself during his military career but also in his profession as an educator. He worked as principal of Chadbourne, Patterson and Niles elementary schools and assistant superintendent of the Fremont school district.

I join retired Sgt. Bob Lewis' family, friends and admirers in applauding him for his meritorious military service and contributions to our country and to his community.

## COUNSELOR AWARDED FOR SPIRIT

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention the national recognition received by Louise Adelstone, a counselor at Comanche Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ms. Adelstone received the local Spirit of Women Award and then went on to receive the national award. This award is given annually to women throughout the United States who dedicate themselves to making their communities a better place for all. The award recognizes "ordinary women who do extraordinary things."

Louise began her career as a counselor after completing her master's degree in counseling from the University of New Mexico. During her first year at Comanche Elementary

School, she began a group called Student Action Kids. The group makes about 60 charity field trips every year, as well as holding penny drives to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Ms. Adelstone was nominated for this award by one of her former students who sent in the nomination along with an essay explaining why she should be given this award. True to her character, Ms. Adelstone said after receiving the national award, "It was very flattering, but being nominated by one of my students was the most flattering."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Counselor Louise Adelstone for her contributions to her students and tireless work for the community.

#### HONORING DR. MORTON TERRY

### HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the contributions of Dr. Morton Terry of Broward County, Florida. Dr. Terry was a dedicated teacher, mentor, and physician, and he leaves us with a wonderful legacy of service to the South Florida community.

Dr. Terry, a native of Utica, New York, moved to Florida after earning his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1945. Dr. Terry practiced medicine for 32 years in Miami before he founded the Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine. He served as Chancellor of the University through its merger with Nova University, and remained active on the campus until the day he died. Dr. Terry will be fondly remembered by all at Nova Southeastern University. Despite his many obligations at Nova Southeastern University, Dr. Terry found time to be active in a number of different professional and civic organizations. He was a lifetime member of the American Osteopathic Association, served as President of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, and he was also an honorary lifetime member of the Miami-Dade County Osteopathic Medical Association. Dr. Terry was committed to enriching and improving South Florida. To further this end, he held leadership positions with almost 20 different organizations including the United Way, American Cancer Society, and Boys Town of South Florida.

Dr. Terry is survived by his wife, one son, and one daughter. He will be missed by both the medical community and the South Florida community.

#### A LIFE OF SERVICE AND COURAGE; A TRIBUTE TO ARMY MASTER SGT. KELLY L. HORNBECK

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a brave young man from my district who was fatally wounded two weeks ago while serving his country in Iraq.

Only 36 years of age, Army Master Sgt. Kelly L. Hornbeck displayed unbending love

for his family and an insatiable appetite for living. As an avid outdoorsman, he always looked for adventures and conquered any obstacles that lay before him. It did not take his family and friends by surprise when he joined the United States Army in 1987 and quickly rose through the ranks to be selected for the Army's prestigious "Old Guard," which stands watch at the Tomb of the Unknowns here in Washington. Hornbeck was quickly promoted to drill sergeant and joined the Army's elite Special Forces in 1990 where he served as a combat diver, free-fall parachutist, and jump master.

In recent years, Master Sgt. Hornbeck had served tours of duty in both Afghanistan and Iraq as a member of the 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group stationed at Fort Carson, CO. He received many awards and decorations while serving the Army which include: two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, a Silver Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

Hornbeck is remembered by one of his former commanders as a true patriot to the United States and to his native State of Texas, and his friends describe him as someone who had a strong moral compass.

Hornbeck's two daughters, Jacqueline (11) and Tyler (7), shared such precious memories of their father at his memorial service as a "great friend" who was "brave." When asked what her favorite memory of her dad was, the youngest daughter Tyler said, "I don't know because I have so many." His parents, Camille and Jeffrey Hornbeck of Fort Worth, praised their son's accomplishments and the cause for which he fought.

Master Sgt. Hornbeck lived an extraordinary life, rich with love, laughter, and pride. As a Member of Congress, I rise today to acknowledge Master Sgt. Hornbeck and his family for their sacrifice and service to the cause of freedom and the war against terror.

I wish to conclude by reading a letter from Master Sgt. Hornbeck to his parents.

DEAR MOM AND DAD: If ya'll are reading this, then I am on my way to help do my part to ensure the future security of our great nation. I don't take this charge lightly or with a cavalier attitude, rather with a resolute heart and a clear conscience. I am strongly convinced that what we are doing is just and worthy of all that could be spent in the effort. I am not afraid and neither should either of you be, for I trust in my God (Psalm 23) and my training, two powerful forces that cannot be fully measured.

My training is not only limited to that which has been bestowed on me by the mightiest military in the world but also by the greatest set of parents in the world. I am who I am because ya'll made me that way, and for that I thank you.

If anything untoward should befall me please insure that the qualities you raised me with get passed onto my children. I love you both very much and intend to see you soon!

Isaiah 6:8

KELLY.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Hornbeck family. May God bless and comfort you during this tragic time.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I was unable to vote during the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Roll Call No. 6, Yes.

Roll Call No. 7, Yes.

Roll Call No. 8, Yes.

Roll Call No. 9, Yes.

Roll Call No. 10, Yes.

Roll Call No. 11, Yes.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEE JOHNSON

### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise before you today to pay tribute to a remarkable teacher and artist from my district. Lee Johnson has enjoyed an extraordinary career as both a full-time professor and professional artist, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Lee's tremendous service and contribution to the Gunnison community.

As a professor at Western State College, Lee has inspired countless students in using their full artistic potential in creating a variety of artworks. When not guiding students in their artistic education, Lee could be found in his studio working in a variety of artistic mediums. To devote more time to his passion of creating, Lee recently retired from Western State College. Moving forward, Lee will continue to draw upon the many beautiful sights of Colorado as inspiration in producing artwork to be appreciated by all.

Mr. Speaker, Lee Johnson is a wonderful ambassador for education and artistic contributions who has dedicated over three decades of his life to teaching the future leaders of tomorrow in his Gunnison, Colorado community. While his classroom will fall silent, he will continue to communicate to us through his daily devotion to creating beautiful artwork. I would like to congratulate Lee on an extraordinary career of public service and wish him the very best in his retirement.

#### HONORING GIRLS INC. OF ALAMEDA COUNTY'S GIRLS RESEARCH PROJECT

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Girls Inc. of Alameda County's Girls Research Project. The research project is one of the most comprehensive and innovative health and wellness studies by and about teenage girls in Alameda County. Girls, Inc. launched this project as an outgrowth of its strategic plan which revealed that it was extremely difficult to find or gain access to



disaggregated data about teenage girls on a range of critical factors relating to their physical and mental health, access to medical care, educational experiences, perceptions of school and community, and support networks, among others.

The core intent of the Project has been to gather robust qualitative and quantitative data about the health and wellness of teenage girls to enhance youth programs and inform policy agendas while at the same time teaching girls themselves about the power of data and guiding them to become leaders and advocates for positive health outcomes in girls' lives.

The project is unprecedented in Alameda County and has surpassed all original expectations. Successful written surveys were conducted in 11 public and alternative high schools in Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro yielding responses from more than 1,900 girls in the 9th through the 12th grade, representing more than 21 % of the entire female high school population in the target school district. A dedicated group of 20 young women were trained to conduct almost 100 one-on-one interviews of their peers. They also helped analyze and interpret both the qualitative and quantitative data collected through the research efforts.

The resulting analysis presents a mixed portrait of girls in Northern Alameda County. A portrait, which on the one hand, demonstrates the resilience and enthusiasm of teen girls, while on the other hand, reveals continued areas of concern relating to girls' physical and mental health; their engagement in risk behaviors; their negative attitudes towards some academic areas, as well as their perceptions and experiences of safety and violence in their schools and communities.

I applaud Girls Inc. of Alameda County for initiating and completing the Girls Research Project. I am confident the research findings will provide valuable guidance for families, educators, health care professionals, policy-makers, and the myriad organizations focused on the health and well-being of teenage girls.

#### TRIBUTE TO GARY VIKAN

#### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Gary Vikan as he celebrates 10 years as Director of the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. The Walters Art Museum is one of the most important cultural institutions in Baltimore. It is loved and cherished by the thousands and thousands of people who visit it every year.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, William Thompson Walters and his son, Henry, collected nearly 22,000 works of art, building the foundation for what would later become the Walters Art Museum. The museum was first opened to the public in 1934. In 1974, a new, larger wing opened on the corner of Centre and Cathedral streets. In 1991, the museum opened another building, the Hackerman House, to hold much of its Asian art collection.

Since taking the helm of the Walters in 1994, Mr. Vikan has presided over a major renovation of the museum and expansion of its collection. As Director, he helped raise \$3 million to renovate the Centre Street building, and another \$8 million to reinstall the Renaissance and Baroque collections. During his tenure, the museum's endowment has grown from \$38 million to \$60 million, and its membership has increased by more than 60 percent.

He has been responsible for securing three major collections: the John and Berthe Ford Collection of Arts of India, Nepal and Tibet; the Austen-Stokes Foundation Collection of the Arts of the Ancient Americans (10 year loan); and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Collection of South-East Asian Art. Between 1995 and 2003, Mr. Vikan assembled the finest collection of Ethiopian art outside Ethiopia.

The Walters is internationally renowned for its vast collection that ranges from predynastic Egypt to 20th century Europe. The many treasures in the collection include Greek sculptures and Roman sarcophagi; medieval ivories and Old Master paintings; Art Deco jewelry and 19th century masterpieces.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Gary Vikan, Director of the Walters Art Museum, as we all celebrate and applaud 10 years of outstanding leadership and vision.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN AZERBAIJAN

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on January 23, 2004, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a dramatic report on the human rights situation in Azerbaijan, our ally in the war on terrorism. HRW contends that Azerbaijan is experiencing its gravest human rights crisis since it gained its independence from the Soviet Union. The report depicts rape, electric shock, severe beatings and forced confessions as routine weapons of the government against the supporters of the political opposition.

Mr. Speaker, according to the HRW report, "In the aftermath of the election, nearly 1,000 people were arrested, among them opposition leaders, local opposition party members, activists of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) who supported the opposition, journalists, and election officials and observers who challenged the fraud." To date, many opposition leaders and their supporters remain in detention with no legal representation. Reports of firings from jobs and police harassment are widespread throughout the country, and the government of Azerbaijan is making few attempts to hide its efforts to crush the opposition permanently.

Heidar Aliyev ruled Azerbaijan with an iron fist for years, even before the country achieved independence. Last summer it began to become apparent that, due to ill health, he would be unable to run for re-election. With this development, many in Azerbaijan had

high hopes that they would finally be able to participate in free and fair elections. The democratic forces were also buoyed by the fact that Azerbaijan became a member of the Council of Europe and that the intense scrutiny of the international community would usher in a new era of democracy and respect for human rights in the country. These hopes were crushed by the government's well-organized campaign to ensure the succession of President Aliyev's son, Ilham Aliyev, to the presidency despite the efforts of a sizeable international election monitoring team. After Aliyev's "landslide victory," the government unleashed a brutal campaign against the opposition without any high-level protest from the international community, including the United States.

Last October, I wrote a letter to the Under Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, Ambassador A. Elizabeth Jones, and later published an op-ed in the Christian Science Monitor, asking the Bush administration to hold Aliyev's feet to the fire on democracy issues. I believe that Azerbaijan, a secular majority-Muslim country, could have been an example of pro-American democracy in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Instead, the people of Azerbaijan are governed by the first post-Soviet dynastic transfer of power, setting a negative example throughout the region and adversely affecting U.S. national security. If the Bush administration takes a strong stance on the post-election crackdown in Azerbaijan, it will reinforce its commitment to spreading democracy and respect for human rights worldwide.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANNE B. RAWLINGS

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life of a remarkable woman from North Egremont, Massachusetts. Mrs. Anne Rawlings recently passed away at the age of eighty-one. She was a beloved figure and as her family and friends mourn her loss, I think it is appropriate that we take the time to recognize her many contributions here today.

Throughout her accomplished life, Anne was a patriot, mother, and wife. She joined the Army, where she served with the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, and helped to train fellow aviators in aerial gunnery. She was also a mother and was able to remain at home to help raise two children and take care of various family pets. Anne also enjoyed other activities such as reading, sewing, and picture puzzles and was an active member of St. James Episcopal Church in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life of Anne Rawlings. Anne was a true patriot, loving mother and wife who certainly had an impact on all who were fortunate to know her. I am honored to pay tribute for such a wonderful life and my heart goes out to her loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably unable to cast votes on Tuesday, January 28 and Wednesday, January 29, 2004, as I was part of a congressional delegation visiting our troops in Iraq. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

"Yes" on Roll Call No. 6, passage of H.R. 1385, authorizing the U.S. Postal Service to issue stamps supporting breast cancer research;

"Yes" on Roll Call No. 7, passage of H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act;

"Yes" on Roll Call No. 8, the Baldwin substitute to S. 1920, regarding the extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code;

"Yes" on Roll Call No. 9, the motion to recommit S. 1920 with instructions;

"Yes" on Roll Call No. 10, final passage of S. 1920, regarding the extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code;

"No" on Roll Call No. 11, motion to instruct conferees on S. 1920, regarding the extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

## H.R. 3108—THE PENSION FUNDING EQUITY ACT

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Congress to quit playing politics with the pensions of American workers. This country faces a pension funding crisis in desperate need of the temporary fix provided in the Pension Funding Equity Act. Both chambers of Congress passed H.R. 3108 overwhelmingly, and both the House and the Senate should work in the same bi-partisan fashion in conference to produce a bill that can quickly be sent to the President.

By no means should we simply ignore the partisanship and lack of good will that has permeated Congress in recent years and thwarted legislative progress. But we also shouldn't address that larger issue by holding hostage the pensions of hard working Americans.

All of us agree that the new rate for calculating pensions must ensure that they are adequately funded. But the fact of the matter is, we need a temporary fix now, both to protect our pensions and ensure that we don't act hastily in determining the final rate.

Mr. Speaker, our workers are relying on us to pass H.R. 3108 quickly. The temporary funding formula expired at the beginning of this year. And if we don't act now, by April 1, companies will be forced to add inflated amounts to their pension plans, a risky requirement that could force many companies into bankruptcy.

I would also encourage my colleagues on the conference committee to include Senate-passed language that addresses multi-employer plans. These plans are entered into through collective bargaining agreements between unrelated employers. Multi-employer

plans are crucial to employees of small businesses because the collaborative agreements allow small employers to provide defined benefit plans. These plans also provide employees with portable pensions as they move from job to job within the same industry.

The Senate language would provide the temporary relief that multi-employer plans need to address any funding problems and ensure that these important, flexible pension plans remain available to America's workers.

Now is the time to pass this pension legislation. We literally can't afford not to. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. can't afford to take on additional pensions. American corporations can't afford to make inflated payments. And, most importantly, our American workers can't afford to lose their pensions.

Mr. Speaker, let's end the political games and pass this temporary fix to give us the time and flexibility we need to set a permanent replacement for the 30 year Treasury bond rate.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO GREGORIO LAMBERT

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay respect to the passing of Gregorio Lambert, who died just four days after his 83rd birthday. Gregorio was a valued member of the Pueblo, Colorado community for close to 20 years. As his family mourns his loss, I think it is appropriate to pay tribute to the contributions Gregorio made to the veteran community of Colorado and his great service to this nation.

Gregorio Lambert grew up in Texas and served in the Army during World War II. Gregorio participated in the Normandy invasion and was held captive as a Prisoner of War in Germany for a year. After receiving an honorary discharge, he returned to Texas and married his wife of 57 years, Flora, later moving to Pueblo in 1985 to raise his family of three sons. Gregorio will be remembered as a valued member of the Pueblo Veterans Ritual Team, which provided assurance that our great veterans receive proper funeral arrangements. He helped put many hearts and minds at ease in the mourning of their loved ones. In addition to this gracious duty, Gregorio was a lifetime member of the San Isabel Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Speaker, Gregorio Lambert was a well-respected member of his community, who unselfishly spent his time honoring his fellow veterans and their families. I am honored to take this time to pay tribute to this great patriot today and I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to Gregorio's family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE OTHA LEE BIGGS ON RECEIPT OF THE DR. R.F. HENRY OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the Honorable Otha Lee Biggs, Judge of Probate for Monroe County, Alabama, on the occasion of his being honored by the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association. For the past thirty years, he has served this organization with a high level of commitment and dedication to the success of waterways systems in the State of Alabama, traits that also extend to the service he has provided for the families which he has been elected to serve and represent.

Judge Biggs first joined CARIA in 1970, following his first election to the position of Judge of Probate and chairman of the Monroe County Commission. In the three decades since that time, he has made thirty-three consecutive annual trips to Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Alabama's congressional delegation to advocate for the interests of critical river projects and solicit funding for their completion. His tireless work on behalf of this organization has resulted in his being awarded CARIA's prestigious Dr. R.F. Henry Outstanding Service Award.

His tremendous work ethic and dedication have also been strongly evident in his commitment to economic development in his home county. Following his election in 1970, Judge Biggs immediately set about working to make Monroe County a shining example of growth in South Alabama. Through his efforts and work as both an elected official and unofficial ambassador for the residents of his area, Judge Biggs and the members of the county commission secured commitments from several large-scale corporations and businesses to build, relocate, or expand already existing facilities in Monroe County. Numbered among these are Alabama River Pulp, FDR Plastics, Stayfast, Inc., Vanity Fair Intimates, and B&B Cabinet Doors, LLC. As a result of his work and the work of everyone involved in the county's economic development program, Monroe County at one time led the entire State of Alabama in new job creation.

In addition to Monroe County's economic life, Judge Biggs has also been instrumental in helping that area preserve and promote its strong literary and historic heritage. As the birthplace and home of such internationally known writers as Nelle Harper Lee, Truman Capote, and Mark Childress, Monroe County has been firmly established as the "Literary Capital of Alabama," and Otha Lee Biggs has done tremendous work to ensure this reputation extends beyond county and state lines and reaches an international audience. In recent years, the number of tourists visiting the area has increased exponentially as a result of the significant amount of publicity, both nationally and globally, that the county has received. Additionally, he was instrumental in the creation of annual performances of the stage adaptation of Miss Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and his work on behalf of the county museum and theater troupe has resulted in the production securing permission to perform on stage

at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and at festivals in Great Britain and Israel.

Finally, he served for many years on the board of trustees for the University of South Alabama and fought tirelessly for the interests of the thousands of students, faculty members, and staff who have been involved in the life of that institution since its founding in the early 1960s.

Mr. Speaker, during my twenty years of work in the House of Representative, both as a staffer and now as the representative for Alabama's First Congressional District, I have met few public servants as committed and dedicated to the well-being of their community as Judge Otha Lee Biggs. With a tenacity and work ethic matched only by his kindness and generosity, he truly represents the finest example of both a southern gentleman and fine public servant. I have certainly learned a great deal from him during our many years of association, and have during that time been proud and deeply honored to develop a strong friendship with him. Monroe County and, indeed, all of South Alabama have benefited greatly from his experience and wisdom, and he has been a great friend to many people.

Along with his many friends and colleagues, not only in the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association but throughout the State of Alabama, I wish to extend to Judge Otha Lee Biggs my warmest congratulations on the receipt of the Dr. R.F. Henry Outstanding Service Award.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE RIFLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to the Rifle Area Chamber of Commerce in Rifle, Colorado. The Chamber recently celebrated 50 years of service to the City of Rifle, and it is my honor to call the attention of my colleagues and this nation to all that the Chamber does for the citizens of Rifle.

The Chamber has a strong tradition of excellent leadership and a dedicated staff. Since its inception, the Chamber has focused on the organization and health of Rifle's economy and its able and dedicated staff members always greet each citizen with a smile. In addition to its traditional activities, the Rifle Chamber of Commerce has always gone beyond the call of duty to be involved in the community. This anniversary celebration also marks a milestone for the only remaining charter member since 1954, John Scalzo. John's service to the chamber and to the city of Rifle has been much appreciated and invaluable, and I know the community is thankful for his service.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise and pay tribute to the Rifle Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber works tirelessly for the betterment of the city of Rifle and I am honored to pay tribute to its contributions today. Congratulations on your anniversary and keep up the hard work.

#### TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LUIS A. MORENO

##### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Private First Class Luis Moreno, a Dominican American who gave his life while serving our country in Iraq.

Pfc. Moreno, who was only 19 years old, was born in the Dominican Republic but immigrated to this country with his family in 1991 in search of a better life. Hoping one day to serve as a police officer, Pfc. Moreno made the courageous decision to dedicate his life to protecting the lives of others.

Pfc. Moreno enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from Taft High School in the Bronx. He had been deployed in Baghdad for only three months with the Army's 1st Armored Division before his untimely death.

Mr. Speaker, I was inspired by this young man's courage and conviction and sadly reminded of the high cost of war. Pfc. Moreno, like so many other young soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. As we mourn the life of this brave soldier, let us remember the sacrifices of all our service members and work to ensure that their heroic deeds are never forgotten.

For his heroism and service to his country, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Pfc. Luis Moreno.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on January 21, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote number 4.

I was also unavoidably absent from this Chamber on January 28, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call numbers 8, 9 and 11. I would also like the record to show that I would have voted "no" on roll call number 10.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO HELEN HAVERSTRAW

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable woman who resides from my district, Helen Haverstraw. Helen resides in Bayfield, Colorado and has been an active member of her community and her church for many years. Helen is a gracious individual and inspires those around her and I am honored to praise her accomplishments today.

Helen celebrated her 100th birthday on December 12th. She was born in 1903 in West

Virginia on a farm during the Teddy Roosevelt era. The farm produced tomatoes, corn and other crops and her father would travel six miles to get into town to sell the fruits of his labor. Helen went on to become valedictorian of her high school. She married Ted Haverstraw in 1928 and they raised their daughters in West Virginia. Following a series of moves in the 1980's and early 90's, she returned to Colorado, where she continues to reside.

Mr. Speaker, Helen Haverstraw has lived a long and active life. She attributes her longevity to her abstaining from harmful products and a positive attitude. Helen's personality and willingness to help others have led her to the exceptional milestone she celebrates this year. Congratulations on your 100th birthday Helen, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, January 27, 2004, I was unavoidably absent due to inclement weather for roll call vote 6 on passage of H.R. 1385, and roll call vote 7 on passage of H.R. 3493. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call votes 6 and 7.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, January 28, 2004, I was unavoidably absent due to inclement weather for roll call vote 8 on passage of the Baldwin amendment; roll call vote 9 on the Schakowsky motion to recommit; roll call vote 10 on final passage of S. 1920; and roll call vote 11 on the motion to instruct conferees. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call votes 8, 9, 10, and 11.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO PEGGIE FORD

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Peggie Ford from Grand Junction, Colorado recently returned from a trip to Venezuela where she and a team of volunteers performed volunteer medical work for underprivileged children. Peggie's altruistic dedication to those less fortunate than herself is certainly deserving of recognition and it is my honor to call her acts to the attention of this body of Congress and our Nation here today.

Peggie is a surgery nurse with Saint Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. She traveled to Venezuela as a member of a team of volunteers organized by Rotaplast International, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing medical help to underprivileged people throughout the world. This was Peggie's second trip to provide medical services to the needy. On the first, she traveled to Chile, where she assisted in numerous beneficial surgeries for those in need.

During her recent trip to Venezuela, Peggie and her team worked tirelessly to provide reconstructive surgery to children with cleft palates. Fueled by their intense desire to help, the team performed surgeries for 11 straight days. Each morning, they began work at dawn and continued late into the night. Those who received the surgery were eternally grateful and truly had their lives enhanced by the selfless dedication of the volunteer medical professionals.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Peggie Ford. It is truly a remarkable person that is willing to spend their vacation time to travel across the world to employ their talents for the betterment of others. Peggie is the embodiment of all that makes this country great and it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to her selfless contributions.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, January 27, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1385, to extend the provision of Title 39, United States Code, under which the United States Postal Service is authorized to issue a special postage stamp to benefit breast cancer research (roll call vote 6); and on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act (roll call vote 7). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, January 28, I was unable to vote on the Baldwin substitute amendment to S. 1920 (roll call vote 8); and on the motion to recommit with instructions the bill S. 1920 (roll call vote 9). Had I

been present, I would have voted "no" on both measures. Further, Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on final passage of S. 1920, to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of Title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted (roll call vote 10). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." And, finally, Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the motion to instruct conferees on S. 1920 (roll call vote 11). Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DON JOHNSON

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the life of a remarkable life of a man from my district. Don Johnson from Aspen, Colorado passed away recently at the age of 68. Don was devoted to his wife and children, and will also be remembered for his commitment to the Aspen community.

Don will be remembered as a pioneer in the ski industry of Colorado. Throughout his 37 year career, it is estimated that he created and blazed more than 70 of the trails that skiers run every season. Don will also be remembered as a devoted husband who, with his wife Janet, raised four sons. Along with helping to raise his family, he also ran his mountain with skill and fortitude.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to the life of Don Johnson. Don was a husband, father, and friend to many who made a tremendous impact that will be felt for generations to come. The Aspen community, and State of Colorado, will truly miss Don. My heart goes

out to his loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

#### INTRODUCING THE FLU PREVENTION ACT OF 2004

#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Flu Prevention Act of 2004 with my colleagues Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. ENGEL. This bill takes important steps to ensure that the widespread vaccine shortages of this flu season, which resulted in the deaths of 110 children will not occur in the future. The bill is an identical companion to bipartisan Senate legislation, introduced by Senators BAYH, CRAIG, LANDRIEU, and DURBIN.

This bill uses a multifaceted approach to ensure adequate flu vaccine supply and educate American families about the importance of the vaccine. It provides tax incentives for vaccine manufacturers to expand their production capacities. It also allows the Centers for Disease Control to share the financial risk of vaccine overproduction with vaccine manufacturers, so as to eliminate the current financial incentive to under-produce vaccine.

Additionally, the Flu Prevention Act provides funding for and requires CDC to implement a protocol if the flu reaches epidemic or pandemic levels. It establishes a public awareness campaign to provide education and outreach efforts on the importance of receiving the vaccine, which populations should receive the vaccine, and vaccine safety.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation as a strong preventative measure to protect our nation's children from future flu outbreaks.